ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Sinatra's dark side
The legendary crooner's close ties to organised crime

CLEOPATRA
The Egyptian pharaoh's ruthless rise to power

MAGNA CARTA
The story behind the birth of human rights

MACHINES OF WAR
From the trebuchet to the fighter jet

10 GREATEST MILITARY LEADERS

Who is the world's ultimate military strategist?

What if Lincoln lived?
If Booth's bullet had missed would he still be an icon?

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ISSUE 18

WWII Victoria Cross hero
How one British soldier destroyed three tanks

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David Frost's interview series with Richard Nixon in 1977 gained global attention – read all about the history of media on page 12

Welcome

For history geeks such as myself, there are certain questions that really get the pulse racing. We've addressed a lot of these through our 17 issues so far, but this time we're looking at a really big one; just who is the greatest military leader of all time?

It's a great topic that can inspire endless debate, as Caesar's supporters argue with Napoleon fanatics while Alexander the Great advocates look on menacingly from the sidelines. I won't claim we've solved the debate with our feature on page 52, but by profiling ten candidates for the title of ultimate military commander and focusing on their greatest victories, we've at least added to this big debate while having a thoroughly enjoyable time.

This issue also boasts articles on Frank Sinatra, Cleopatra and a themed section on the history of the mass media, as well as an article on the original playboy himself, Casanova. With jobs as varied as a gambler, priest, alchemist and spy it's a wonder he found any spare time to chase after the opposite sex. He most certainly did find the time, though, so turn to page 86 to join the cad as he goes from one extravagant party to the next in decadent and dangerous 18th-century Venice...

Andrew Brown
Editor

Issue 18 highlights

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Heroes and Villains
Emperor Meiji was put on the throne by his people after a civil war and oversaw the transformation of Japan from a feudal country to a world superpower.

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Victoria Cross
Toward the end of WWII Major Robert Henry Cain led Allied resistance against German troops and tanks in Arnhem, taking on several of the armoured beasts himself.

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My Way: Sinatra's Dark Side
The crooner was one of the biggest stars in the world, but rumours of his involvement with the Mafia persist – was he a goodfella?

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Japanese Emperor Meiji oversaw the transformation of Japan from a feudal state to one of the world's superpowers

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If Abraham Lincoln hadn't been assassinated, would he still be an icon or could he have fallen from grace?

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In the Battle of Arnhem, Major Robert Cain bravely took on several German tanks in order to hold the British line

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The medieval bill of human rights, the Magna Carta

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Did the film *Casanova* seduce our writer, or were its historical flaws just too much?

ENJOYED THE MAGAZINE? SUBSCRIBE & SAVE 50% Page 50

HISTORY IN COLOUR

CONFIDENCE IN A PRODUCT

A policeman demonstrates how safe a bulletproof vest is by allowing a colleague to shoot him in the chest from relatively close range. The first record of a bulletproof vest is from the 16th century, when Francesco Maria della Rovere, the duke of Urbino, commissioned one to be made for him. By the start of the 20th century policemen and criminals were wearing vests that could absorb the impact of a bullet.

1920s

© Courtesy of Dynamoland.Org

SOUTH AFRICA
London 2012
PISTORIUS
5

DEFINING MOMENT

THE BLADE RUNNER

South African Oscar Pistorius in action during the men's 400-metre semi-final at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The highly decorated Paralympian athlete became the first-ever amputee runner to compete at an Olympic Games. In February 2013 he shot and killed Reeva Steenkamp, his girlfriend, and at a media-covered trial he was found guilty of culpable homicide, but not murder.

5 August 2012

THE
RATION BOOK
RATION BOOK

DEFINING MOMENT

RATIONING AFTER THE WAR

Londoners queue with their ration booklets for bread in Walworth in southeast London. Rationing was a part of life for Britons during WWII and continued for years after the war ended, with bread rationed until 1948 and sugar until 1953. Britons eventually came off rations in 1954 and many celebrated by burning the ration books that had played such a big role in their lives for over a decade.

21 July 1946

The media has frequently been accused of invading people's privacy

Mass Media

Reaching and influencing the public through mass communication

This issue

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Meet ten characters who changed the world of the media forever

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Operate a 16th-century printing press

18 **Anatomy of**
A young boy hawking newspapers on the city streets of the 19th century to try and earn enough money to eat and survive

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From the earliest parchments through to the proliferation of books and newspapers to the radio and TV, take a journey through the often-tumultuous history of the media

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Of a medieval monk, painstakingly copying manuscripts to ensure that knowledge lived on

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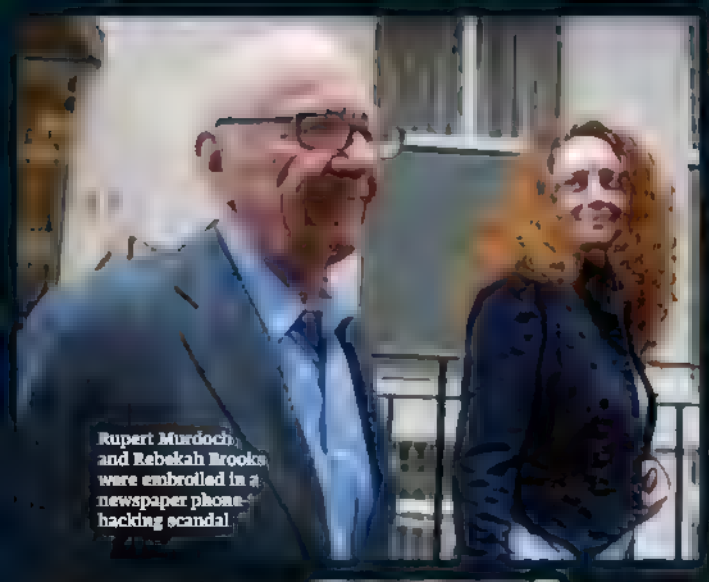
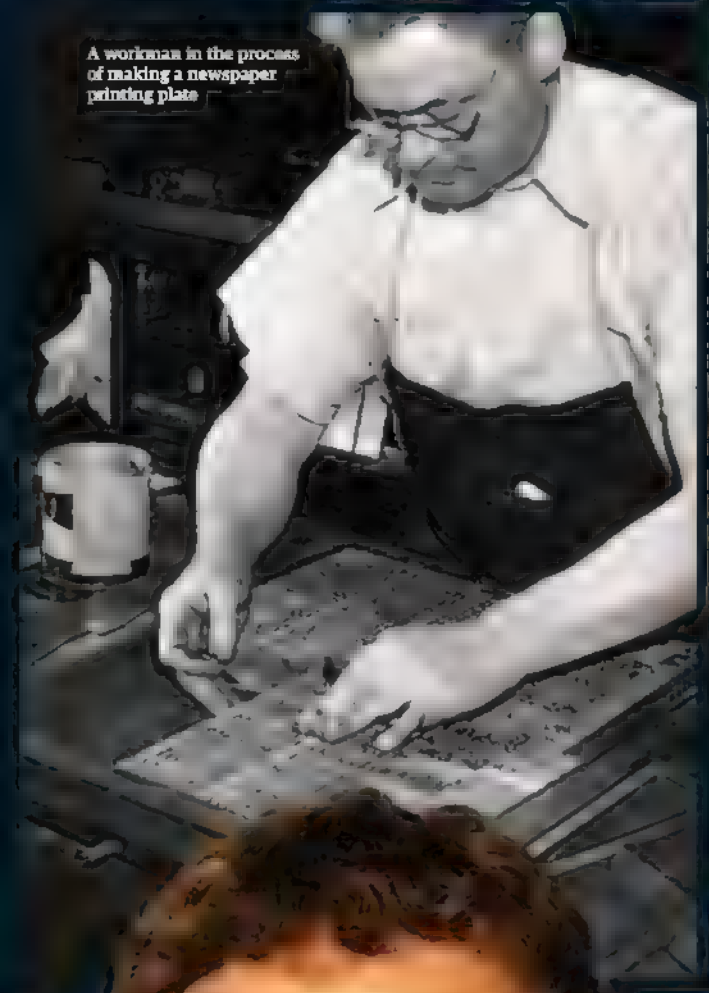
One of the most powerful - and polarising - media moguls of recent times, Rupert Murdoch



Rupert Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks were embroiled in a newspaper phone-hacking scandal

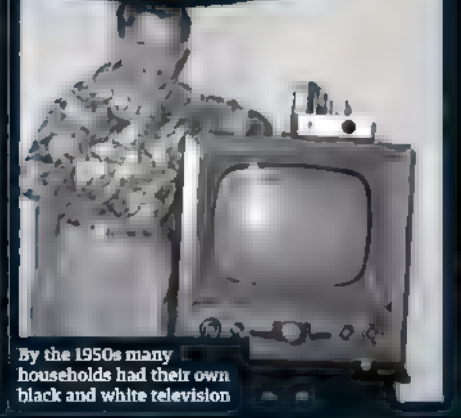


A workman in the process of making a newspaper printing plate

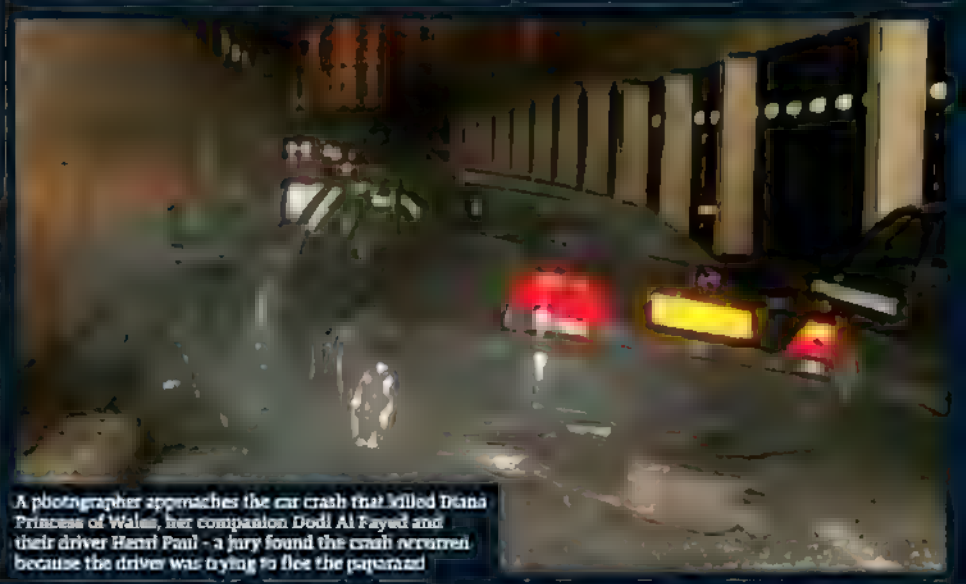
Mark Zuckerberg's company Facebook is one of the most powerful players in the new world of social media

A newspaper seller carrying a placard announcing that Britain had declared war on Germany, 1939

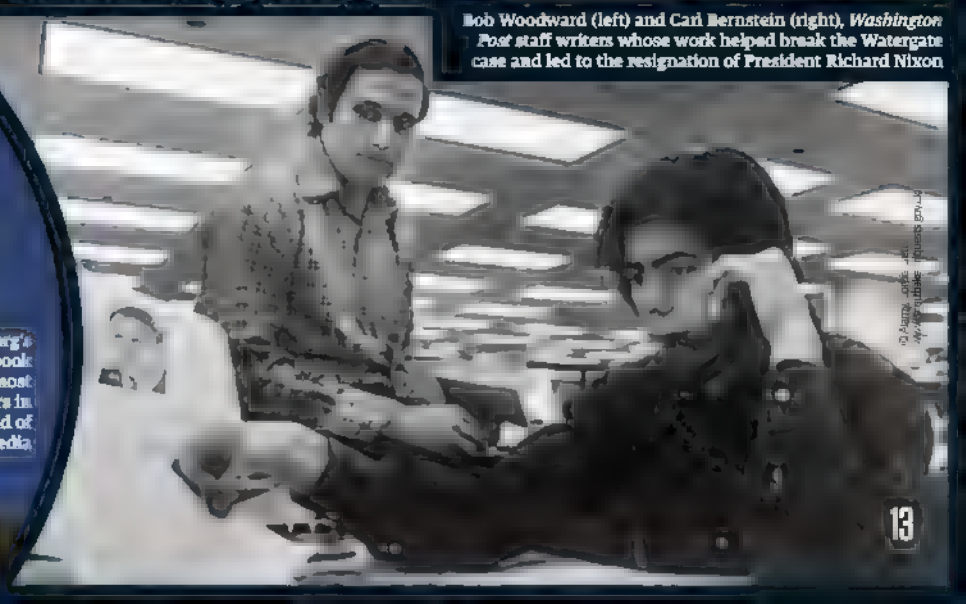
King George VI addresses the nation via radio on his coronation day on BBC Radio from Buckingham Palace in 1937



By the 1950s many households had their own black and white television



A photographer approaches the car crash that killed Diana Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Al Fayed and their driver Henri Paul - a jury found the crash occurred because the driver was trying to flee the paparazzi

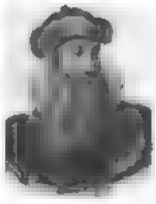


Bob Woodward (left) and Carl Bernstein (right), *Washington Post* staff writers whose work helped break the Watergate case and led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon

Hall of Fame

MEDIA INNOVATORS

Meet those that through either new forms of writing or sheer business ambition have helped shape the world of the media as we know it



Johannes Gutenberg

GERMAN 1398-1468

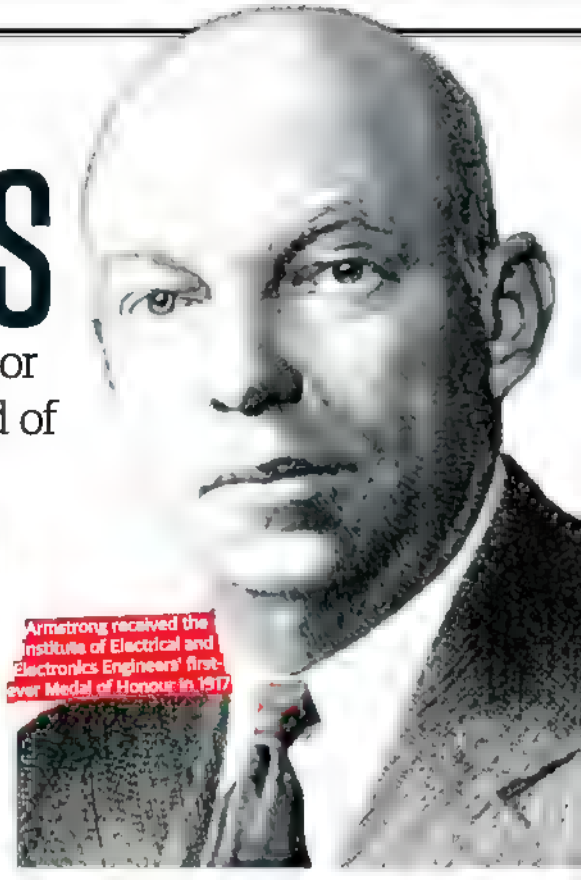
After several financial misadventures, German inventor Gutenberg struck gold with the creation of movable-type printing. He took out a loan to realise his idea, and in two years Gutenberg's revolutionary press was in operation. He set up a workshop and began to print copies of the *Bible* using his new printing technique. The spread of movable type ushered in the era of mass communication, as texts could be produced on a large scale at a relatively quick pace. The increased circulation of information birthed revolutionary movements such as the Reformation, Renaissance and the scientific revolution. Despite the ingenuity of his creation, Gutenberg was left in debt and his achievements were only recognised in the last few years of his life

Inventor John Logie Baird with his ventriloquist dummy 'Stooky Bill'

John Logie Baird

SCOTTISH 1888-1946

Many inventors contributed to the birth of television, but Baird's pioneering work has earned him a place in history. After dropping out of university Baird attracted attention when he became the first person to create a live, moving greyscale television image. Baird went on to create the first working television set using a hatbox, a pair of scissors, darning needles, bicycle lights, a tea chest and some glue. He demonstrated his working television set to a crowd of impressed scientists and formed the Baird Television Development Company

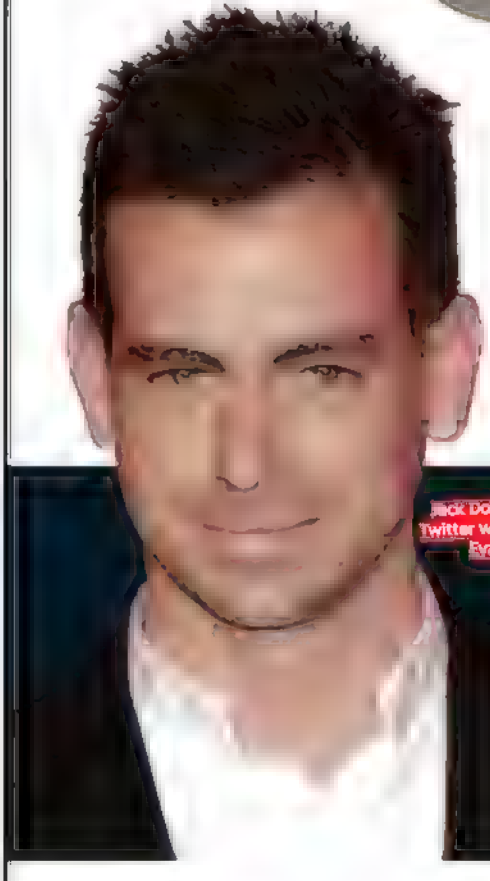


Armstrong received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' first-ever Medal of Honour in 1917

Edwin Howard Armstrong

AMERICAN 1890-1954

Despite his name not being widely known, Armstrong is possibly the most important figure in the history of the mass media device that is radio. Armstrong invented a great amount of the technology used every day in modern radio; the regenerative circuit and also the superheterodyne receiver. However, it was his invention of modern frequency modulation, or FM radio transmission, that left his mark on mass media. The invention was monumental as it enabled transmission of a wider range of audio frequencies and also eliminated the static that plagued AM radio. As well as massively increasing the popularity of radio, Armstrong's FM was also used for communications between NASA and their Apollo programme astronauts.



Jack Dorsey cofounded Twitter with Biz Stone and Evan Williams

JACK DORSEY

AMERICAN 1976-PRESENT

Dorsey was interested in computers at an early age and began programming while he was still at high school. By the time he was 15 he had already created dispatch software that is still used by taxicab companies today. He dropped out of college to pursue his idea for an instant messaging website, which later became known as Twitter. The site was created in just two weeks and the first tweet was posted on 21 March 2006. Although the site initially received harsh criticism, soon major political and media figures began to utilise the simple mass communication tool and it quickly became the centre for communication during major worldwide and political events.

"Just setting up my twttr"

Jack Dorsey's first tweet

John Reith

BRITISH 1889-1971

A controversial figure in his time, John Reith was the first general manager of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) in 1922, and was promoted to director general in 1927 when it became a public corporation. Despite having no experience in broadcasting, his autocratic approach helped to create the template for public-service broadcasting in Britain. Summarizing the BBC's focus as to educate, inform and entertain, broadcasters worldwide have since adopted Reith's mission statement for their own media stations. Reith's work at the BBC and contribution to broadcasting was honoured with a knighthood, but in characteristically blunt fashion he said, "An ordinary knighthood is almost an insult."

Marlene Sanders

AMERICAN 1931-PRESENT

Born to a Jewish family in Ohio, Sanders began her media career with a low-level job in television news. Despite women usually being confined to administrative roles, she worked her way into becoming the first female field correspondent, reporting on the Vietnam War as it unfolded in the 1960s. When the regular anchor of the evening news broadcast fell ill she filled in and became the first woman to anchor for a major network. Sanders' list of achievements don't stop there, though; she eventually became the vice president of ABC News, and is now an Emmy Award-winning correspondent, producer, writer and news executive, paving the way for women anchors the world over.

WADAH KHANFAR

PALESTINIAN 1968-PRESENT

Hailed as one of the most 'Powerful People in the World' by *Forbes Magazine*, Khanfar was the driving force in leading Arabic broadcasting network Al Jazeera from a single channel to a massive media network with real influence. Although Al Jazeera was already creating waves throughout the Middle East with its controversial views and championing of freedom of speech, it was not generally known in the rest of the world. With Khanfar at the helm the station's global reach skyrocketed and is now seen by many as a major force in worldwide events, as well as redefining the meaning of alternative media.

Joseph Pulitzer

HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN 1847-1911

One of the most powerful US journalists of his time, Pulitzer is best known for the prize named after him, which celebrates achievements in artistic pursuits such as literature, journalism, poetry and photography. He was the owner of the *St Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The New York World*, filling the newspapers with sensational and attention-grabbing features as well as illustrations, and even staging news stunts. As a result of his innovative new techniques *The World* became the most successful newspaper in the country and helped usher in a new age for journalism.

Felix Dennis

BRITISH 1947-2014

Dennis's remarkable publishing career started when he worked as a street seller for *Oz*, an underground counterculture magazine. He began writing for the magazine and his talent quickly got him promoted to co-editor. Dennis went on to establish his own magazine publishing company with a string of successful titles such as *Kung-Fu Monthly* and *Personal Computer World*. Dennis pioneered computer and hobbyist magazine publishing in the UK, as well as digital and online titles. His company, Dennis Publishing, still has over 50 magazine titles, websites and mobile sites to its name.

From left to right: Richard Neville, James Anderson and Felix Dennis holding copies of *Oz* in London in 1970

William Randolph Hearst

AMERICAN 1863-1951

Rival of Joseph Pulitzer, Hearst's circulation war with Pulitzer's titles helped to usher in the age of yellow journalism – thrilling stories with eye-catching headlines but dubious legitimacy. Hearst went on to dominate the world of journalism with the largest chain of newspapers in the world. His sensational rise to power inspired Orson Welles to make the film *Citizen Kane*, essentially a biography of the media mogul's life. Hearst's pioneering techniques have now become a staple in the world of journalism, and can be seen in every tabloid worldwide.

© Alamy Corbis

How to OPERATE A PRINTING PRESS

THE BEGINNING OF A WORLDWIDE REVOLUTION, EUROPE, 16TH CENTURY

5 EXPENSIVE BOOKS

CODEX LEICESTER
16TH CENTURY, ITALY

Leonardo da Vinci's original collection of scientific writings was purchased by Bill Gates for $30.8 million (£19 million) in 2013

MAGNA CARTA
1215, ENGLAND

One copy of the *Magna Carta*, which introduced constitutional law in England, was sold for $21.3 million (£13.2 million) in 2007

ST CUTHBERT'S GOSPEL
7TH CENTURY, ENGLAND

This pocket gospel book is the oldest surviving example of Western bookbinding. It was sold in 2012 for $14.3 million (£8.8 million).

BAY PSALM BOOK
1640, USA

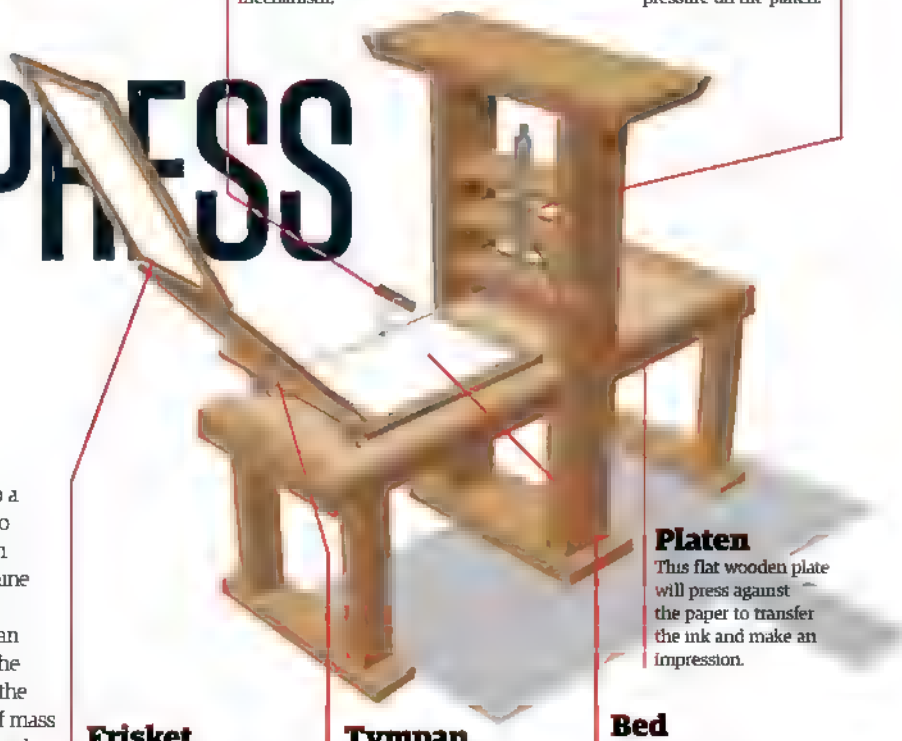
The first-ever book printed in the USA, a surviving first-edition copy of the *Bay Psalm Book* sold for $14.2 million (£8.7 million).

ROTHSCHILD PRAYERBOOK
16TH CENTURY, BELGIUM

This Flemish devotional book broke the record auction price for an illuminated manuscript by selling for $13.4 million (£8.3 million).

When Johannes Gutenberg invented movable-type printing in 1439 it was to a world where only the elite had access to handwritten manuscripts and books. In 1455 he produced 180 copies of his 42-line *Bible*, selling for 30 florins each – three years' wages for a clerk, but cheaper than the handwritten alternative. It ignited the printing revolution that would change the face of the world. Ushering in the era of mass communication, his invention contributed to the Renaissance, the scientific revolution, the Reformation and opened the world of education and knowledge to the masses.

PRESSING MATTERS



Rounce
This small handle will roll the bed holding the paper under the plate by using a windlass mechanism.

Bar
Also known as a 'Devil's Tail', this handle will turn the screw that puts pressure on the platen.

Platen
This flat wooden plate will press against the paper to transfer the ink and make an impression.

Frisket
This oiled sheet of paper covers the areas of the paper that need to stay ink free, usually around the edge.

Tympan
A sheet of paper or cloth is mounted in a frame to help to regulate the pressure on the paper being printed.

Bed
Called a 'bed' or a 'coffin', this is a flat stone area of the press that holds the forme in place.

01 Cast your letters

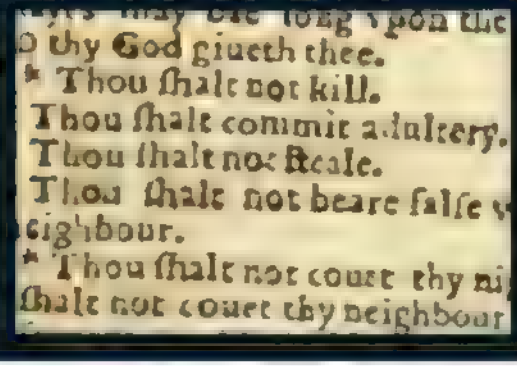
First, you need to create the letters you'll be using in your press. This is done by hammering a hard metal punch that displays the letters back to front into a soft copper bar, resulting in a 'matrix' that is then filled with molten metal. When cooled the metal letter type is removed and this process, known as movable type, ensures all the letters are identical.

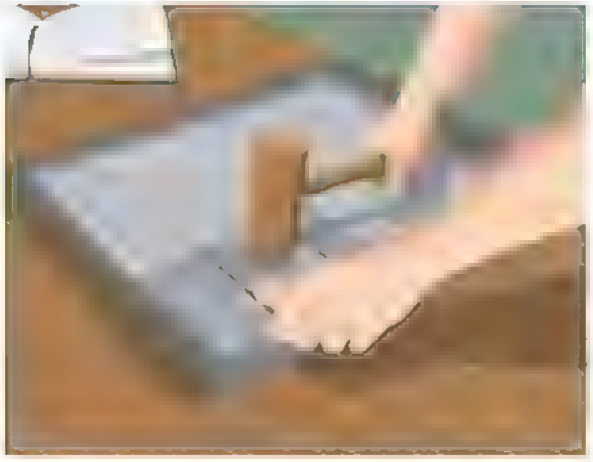
02 Compose your book

Each page of your book needs to be composed by hand, in a process known as manual typesetting. The individual letters required are put together into words, then lines of text, which is all tied together into a bundle. Because any mistake will cost a lot of time and money a galley proof is made from this initial bundle and checked by a proofreader

How not to... proofread your work

Misprints in books are usually picked up before they go to market, but any unnoticed printing errors can prove very costly, not just for a company's bank balance but also their reputation. In *The Pasta Bible*, a cookbook printed in 2010, the phrase 'salt and freshly ground black pepper' was somehow misprinted as 'black people'. Over 7,000 of the books had to be destroyed, costing them $20,000, but it was impossible to recall all the copies already in circulation. This is a problem almost as old as printing itself; a *Bible* printed in 1631 contained what may have been a deliberate mistake from a bitter typesetter, stating that one of the commandments is 'Thou shalt commit adultery.' Once discovered, it was dubbed *The Wicked Bible* and King Charles ordered all copies to be destroyed in a fire. However, 11 known copies still survive to this day and can fetch up to $100,000 (£62,000) at auction.


thy God giueth thee.
Thou ſhalt not kill.
Thou ſhalt commit adultery.
Thou ſhalt not Steale.
Thou ſhalt not beare falſe
Thou ſhalt not court thy
ſhalt not court thy neighbour

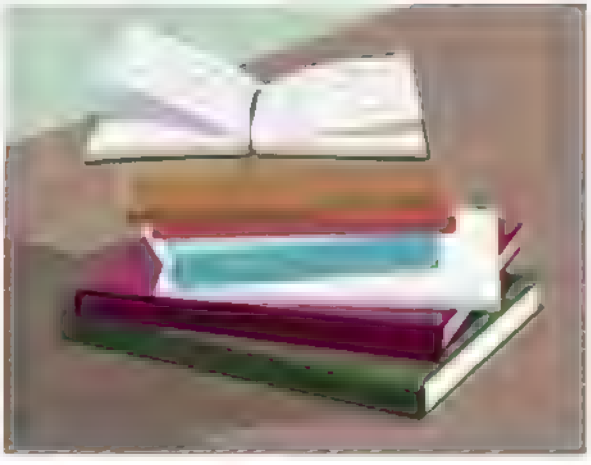


03 Make a forme

Once you're happy with your page you need to make a 'forme' to use on the press. This makes it easier to print multiple copies of your book and saves time and materials. A hammer is used to make sure all the letter faces sit at an even surface for printing. The pages are then set into a chase – a metal frame – and locked firmly into place

04 Apply the ink

Take your forme to the printing press and prepare for some hard labour. Letterpress presses are operated by two people and involves a long and meticulous process, albeit not as long as creating handwritten manuscripts. One person needs to ink the type; this is done with two inked pads stuffed with sheep's wool mounted on handles.



05 Prepare your paper and print

Take some damp paper and hold it in place between the frisket and tyman with some small pins – the paper should then be laid on the surface of the inked type and rolled under the platen using a small handle. Then turn a long handle known as 'Devil's Tail', which puts pressure on the pattern, making an impression on the fresh paper with the ink.

06 Admire your finished masterpiece

Because of the crisp and clean finish letterpress printing produces, it excels when printing lines, typography and patterns. Patterns can be created on the paper in much the same way as type, with many attractive patterns adorning early letterpress books. Pictures can also be produced by running the paper through the press several times to add different colours.

4 PRINTING PIONEERS

JOHANNES GUTENBERG

1398-1468, GERMANY

The inventor of the moving-type printing press died before his contribution to the world was suitably recognised.

FRIEDRICH KOENIG

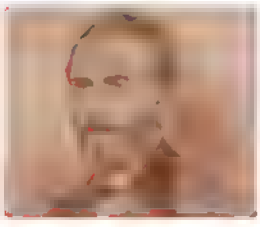
1774-1833, GERMANY

Koenig invented the steam-powered, high-speed printing press. It printed the first issue of *The Times* in 1814.

WILLIAM BULLOCK

1813-1867, USA

Bullock's improvements to the rotary printing press revolutionised printing, but he was killed by his own invention when his leg was caught in the machine.



GARY STARKWEATHER

1938-PRESENT, USA

The invention of the laser printer and colour management can be attributed to this Xerox engineer.

©Edward Crooks

FLAT CAP

THE TRADEMARK ACCESSORY

This flat, round cap has received a boost in recent popularity, but during the late-19th century the hat was commonly worn by 'newsies' and was associated closely with the working class. The hat was commonly worn by farmers, beggars, criminals, dockworkers and other tradesmen.

THE Anatomy of

19TH-CENTURY NEWSPAPER BOY

THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF MASS COMMUNICATION, NEW YORK, 1800s

GIFT OF THE GAB

BE LOUD AND PROUD

The phrase 'Extra! Extra! Read all about it!' was heard yelled all over the streets of 19th-century America into the early hours. Because there were so many poor boys looking to sell their stock, competition was fierce, so the paperboy's voice became his weapon. The newsie who could attract the buyers by yelling out headlines would often earn enough to eat that night.

COIN PURSE

AN EMPTY PURSE EQUALS AN EMPTY STOMACH

Most newsies were orphans who sold newspapers to survive. They were charged 67 cents to buy 100 copies and if they sold all of their papers they would typically make a profit of 33 cents. They couldn't return their dead stock so they worked diligently to sell them all in a trade that became known as 'hustling the sheets.'

THICK COAT

PROTECTION FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Rising early and staying up late, newsboys were subjected to the harshest weather all year long, so a thick coat was an essential garment. The newsies didn't go to school as it wasn't legally required until 1919 and most did not have a home to return to, so for many their outer jackets they clutched around them had to provide enough heat to get them through the long, cold nights.

WELL-WORN BOOTS

THESE BOOTS HAVE DONE A LOT OF WALK NG

With limited child labour laws in place, conditions for the newsies were tough. Often working long into the night, the paperboys would be on their feet all day, standing on street corners and travelling far from their neighbourhoods to try and sell in saloons at night. Many of the suffering orphans did not even possess shoes.

NEWSPAPERS

NEWS FOR A PENNY

The 'newsies bread and butter', *The New York Sun* was the first penny paper – established in 1833 – and the young workers would gather in the early hours at Newspaper Row in Manhattan to collect their stock. *The Chicago Tribune* and *The New York Times* also got their start in the mid-19th century, with many Americans reading at least two newspapers a day in what was a golden age for the medium.

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COMBAT

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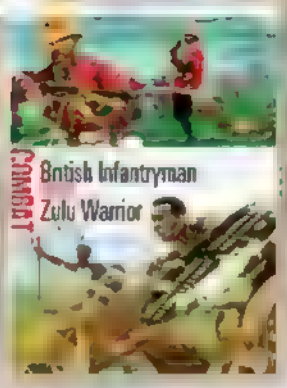

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Media across history

A NEW CHAPTER

CHINA 200 BCE

Although papyrus had been used in Egypt as far back as the fourth millennium BCE, the earliest form of paper as we know it was developed in China during the Han Dynasty. Writing was previously displayed on tablets made from bamboo or silk, which were heavy and costly but the creation of paper from wood and rags provided an inexpensive alternative that rose to worldwide popularity and was quickly used for a host of uses, most notably for pages in books.

Paper was commonly used for the protection of delicate items before it became a base for writing

Read all about it!

ENGLAND 1665

Although not the first newspaper (that honour goes to a German title from 1605) the *Oxford Gazette* was a hugely influential newspaper printed in England. Its Dutch-inspired two-column, titled and dated format came to define the look of newspapers. *The Times*, published in 1785, continued to set the standard for newspapers worldwide, popularising the Times Roman typeface and featured articles written by major figures in literature arts, science and politics, influencing public opinion.

The Times' headquarters as they looked in 1870

Mass media timeline

- **Easy as ABC**
  The Semitic people who live near Egypt develop the first known alphabet. All subsequent alphabets descend in one form or other from this first script.
  1850 BCE
- **The early newspaper**
  The *Acta Diurna* are first carved on stone and metal, then displayed on public notice boards in Ancient Rome. These official notices were a kind of daily news service.
  131 BCE

A depiction of a scribe writing a manuscript

- **The printing revolution**
  Johannes Gutenberg creates a movable type printing press, which will go on to revolutionise the world of printing by industrialising the process.
  1450
- **The first advertisement**
  The first English advertisement is printed by William Caxton. It offers the sale of 'pyes', or clerical rules. Caxton is thought to be the first person to introduce the printing press to England.
  1468

The first phone call from New York City to Chicago

- **Across the airwaves**
  Gugliemo Marconi becomes the first person to achieve a successful radio transmission. He goes on to receive the Nobel Prize in 1909 for his contribution to radio sciences.
  1895

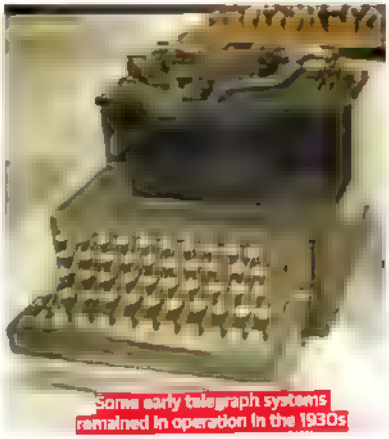
1850 BCE | 0 | 1000 | 1400 | 1900

- **The royal library**
  Although libraries have existed before, the Great Library of Alexandria is one of the largest and most significant of the ancient world.
  300 BCE

Famous thinkers such as Archimedes, Herophilus and Hipparchus studied in the Great Library

- **Manuscript culture**
  Monk scribes write handwritten copies of bibles and books. Manuscripts become the main way of storing and spreading information.
  10th century
- **The birth of printing**
  Movable-type printing using porcelain is invented in China by the commoner Bi Sheng during the Song Dynasty.
  1041
- **Your call is important to us**
  Alexander Graham Bell invents the first practical telephone. The first words are from him to Thomas Watson, when Bell says: "Mr Watson come here, I want to see you."
  1876
- **Edison's phonograph**
  Thomas Edison invents his phonograph, one of the first devices capable of reproducing recorded sound. It is important in the development of the radio as a media device.
  1877

Thomas Edison by his phonograph



Some early telegraph systems remained in operation in the 1930s

Connecting the nation

GREAT BRITAIN 1838

The first commercial telegraph line in the world was set up by William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone on the Great Western Railway from Paddington Station to West Drayton. A large number of telegraph lines were built across the railways, followed by post offices around the country. As messages were relayed instantly over great distances for the first time, the era of mass personal communication began.

This *Puck* cartoon shows little printer's devils emerging from a printing press

Press goes yellow

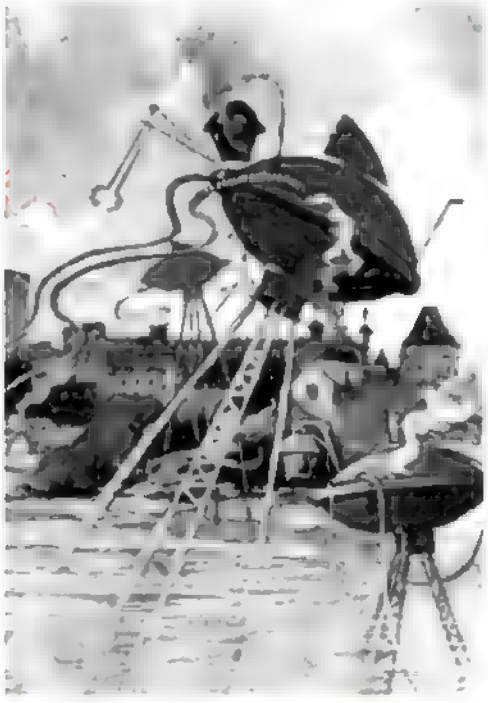
UNITED STATES 1890S

When Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and William Randolph Hearst's *New York Journal* battled for readership in the late-19th century they created a type of journalism that would define newspapers for generations. Dubbed 'yellow journalism', many unaccredited and often false news pieces were topped with attention-grabbing headlines at rock-bottom prices, a technique that drives some newspaper and magazine sales to this day

ALIEN INVASION?

UNITED STATES 30 OCTOBER 1938

Aired as a special Halloween episode on the CBS radio network, an audio play of HG Wells's *War Of The Worlds* was reported to cause mass panic when several listeners believed the alien invasion tale to be true. There was also outrage from the traditional media source of the newspapers, which already had a grudge against radio for causing it to lose advertising revenue. Although the level of actual panic caused has been disputed, it led all radio networks to agree to never use staged newscasts in fictional dramas again.



Breaking news

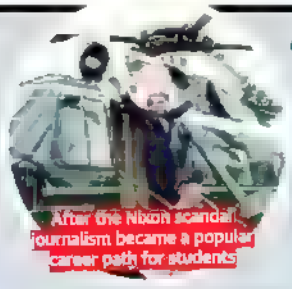
UNITED STATES 1948

Shown every weeknight at 7.30pm, the *CBS Television News* anchored by Douglas Edwards was the first regularly scheduled television news programme featuring an anchor, setting up a trend that would continue to this day. The show only lasted 15 minutes, but by 1950 it was being shown on both coasts of the USA. However, the weekly news show *See It Now*, presented by Edward R Murrow, was perhaps the most pioneering early television news show of all. With a special focus on controversial issues, its 1954 investigative programme *A Report On Senator Joseph McCarthy* contributed to McCarthy's political downfall and set a new standard for news broadcasts.

Murrow's signature opening 'This is London' became a famous catchphrase during WWII

The living-room war
The horrors of war become real for viewers around the world due to the mass media device that is the television, as the Vietnam War becomes the first war reported from primarily through television. **1960s**

Going for gold
The Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, are telecast to the United States. This is the first-ever live broadcast to travel across the Pacific Ocean. **1964**



After the Nixon scandal, journalism became a popular career path for students

Scandal in the press
US President Richard Nixon resigns, largely as a result of the media coverage of the Watergate scandal. Journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein play a key role in this and the event proves the media can play a large role in bringing down a president. **9 August 1974**

Become your own reporter
The age of internet blogging begins as Open Diary, Livejournal and Blogger.com are launched. Consumers can now get their news and comment pieces from the traditional media or these new sources. **1999**

Citizen journalists
Students witnessing a shooting massacre at Virginia Tech send photos and videos across the world before TV crews can even get to the university, further demonstrating that people are now getting their news from means other than the traditional media. **2007**

1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2014

Enter the box
John Logie Baird demonstrates moving images in 1926, but it isn't until the 1950s that the average American and western European homes have their own black and white television. **1950s**

The TV was a culture-altering invention

A global broadcast
Footage of Neil Armstrong walking on the Moon is broadcast to TV sets across the world. It attracts a 93 per cent share of the US audience and is watched by over 125 million people. **20 July 1969**

The Moon landing was a global media event

1st txt msg
The first SMS text message is sent. By 1994 it is available for commercial use on the Radiolinja phone network. This invention will ultimately change the way people communicate. **1992**

The first text message simply read 'Happy Christmas'

#socialmedia
Social networking site Twitter is launched in 2006 and quickly becomes popular. With over 100 million members by 2012, it is used increasingly to get instant news updates. **2006**

A coronation to remember

GREAT BRITAIN 2 JUNE 1953

When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned over a year after the death of her father, King George VI, it was the first-ever televised coronation ceremony. Over 200 microphones lined the path and 750 commentators detailed the events in 39 different languages. It became the first major international event broadcast on television with more than 20 million people watching worldwide, truly ushering in the television age.

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation was an international media event

All eyes on the president

UNITED STATES 1961

After reaping the benefits of his televised presidential debate with Richard Nixon in 1960, the media-savvy Kennedy held the first live TV news conference on 25 January. Ever since then, politicians' conduct in TV press conferences has helped to make or break their images in the eyes of the media and their voters.

Logging on

UNITED KINGDOM 1991

The first-ever World Wide Web site went live on 6 August 1991, developed by Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee. This would change the face of mass media and that of the world at large. Although the internet already existed, Berners-Lee's invention made it accessible to people all over the planet as a way of sharing news and information.

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INSIDE HISTORY

1950S TELEVISION STUDIO

BEAMING THE NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT STRAIGHT INTO PEOPLE'S HOMES, 1950S, ENGLAND

Lighting
The talent would either be lit from lights attached to the ceiling, as pictured, or by standing studio lights. The standing lights were more common in the early years of mass media.

Presenter
The first television presenters came from a small demographic; middle to upper-class males. Television has always reflected society and so, as the 1950s gave way to the 1960s, more women came to be seen on the gogglebox and they were eventually given increasingly important roles.

Filming equipment
During this period a whole host of different cameras were in use by television companies, there wasn't one bit of kit that had become universal. Among the most popular cameras, though, was the Pye Mk 3, which was used from the beginning of the 1950s to the end of the 1960s.

Cameramen
During the early years of television all of the shows were live. In some studios the cameramen would film one show and then literally swing around 180 degrees to the other side of the studio to film another show.

The studio

When the TV station ITV was created it was done so in such a hurry that many of the studios were converted from buildings such as cinemas or even shops to ensure the new programmes could be made and then broadcast to the nation. In England, most of the studios based themselves in London, apart from Granada, which built its main studio in Manchester.

Sound

The Mole-Richardson Type 103B microphone boom was a familiar item in TV studios from the 1940s until the end of the 1970s. The boom arm would extend to approximately 5m (17ft) and the base of the equipment had wheels, which were steered from the rear. The operator needed a good sense balance to stay on their feet and not fall off.

From the moment John Logie Baird demonstrated televised moving images in 1926 the medium of TV has gone from strength to strength. While Baird is often held up as the inventor of the media, others before him also played a key role. One of these figures was the German inventor Paul Julius Gottlieb Nipkow, who invented a picture-scanning method used until well into the 1930s. Nipkow was so influential that Germany's first public television channel, started in Berlin in 1935, was named Fernsehsender Paul Nipkow after him.

The British Broadcasting Company was established in October 1922 but didn't begin experimental TV broadcasts until 1932 with regular – if limited - broadcasts around two years later and more regular service in 1936 broadcast from Alexandra Palace. In Great Britain they were the only TV station until ITV launched in 1954. In the United States the first TV station, W3XK, began broadcasting in 1928.

By the 1950s the new medium was beginning to become more affordable and became the dominant form of home entertainment and news, with increasing numbers of families having a TV set in their front room. For example, between 1949 and 1969, the number of households in the US with at least one TV set rose from less than a million to 44 million. Television was here to stay.

Director

While it was important that the director ensured that the best shots were taken, they would also help ensure that the programme cut to advertising breaks at the right time. By 1969 American advertisers were spending an incredible $1.5 billion on TV advertising a year, meaning that the relationship between shows and advertisers became closely linked, with some shows being sponsored by one product and the presenter being seen to endorse this.

© The Art Agency

Day in the life

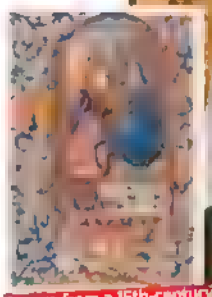
A MEDIEVAL MONK

KEEPERS OF KNOWLEDGE, TRANSCRIBING THE PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, EUROPE, 14TH CENTURY

For many in the Middle Ages, where plague, war and poverty were common, the halls of towering monasteries were a safe haven. Anyone could become a monk, but their lives were far from easy; most monasteries followed the rule of St Benedict, commanding that all monks live a strict schedule of prayer and manual labour. The monasteries were an integral part of every community, the hubs of learning and education in an illiterate world and one of their most important tasks was the making of books. Before mechanical printing, books were handmade objects, treasured as works of art and as symbols of enduring knowledge and many of them were produced by monks.

1 MORNING PRAYER

The day would begin bright and early for medieval monks as they rose before dawn for the morning service at 5am. The monks' entire day was structured around *The Book Of Hours*, which was split into eight sections of prayers intended to be read at specific times of day. Prayers would be held at 5am, 6am, 9am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm and 2am.



A page from a 15th-century *Book Of Hours*

2 DISCUSS DAILY BUSINESS

The monks would gather in the Chapter House, a large room next to the church, to discuss daily business. As well as being given jobs to do, such as copying manuscripts or translating texts, the monks would also listen to the abbot or senior monks talk. They would relay significant details about the world outside if they affected the community, such as a monarch's death, or more commonly, issues of discipline within the monastery itself.

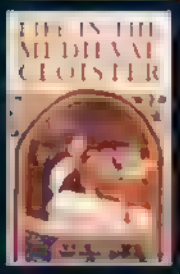
3 MANUAL LABOUR

The monks were expected to take an active role in the upkeep of the monastery, which included manual labour. This could range from planting and harvesting food to caring for animals. Monasteries were commonly surrounded by acres of land, gardens and orchards where onions, turnips, beans and leeks were grown, not only for the monks to eat, but also to sell outside of the monastery

In a time when most of the population were illiterate, monks could read and write

How do we know this?

A variety of sources document the roles undertaken by monks in the Middle Ages. *Life In The Medieval Cloister* by Julie Kerr gives a fascinating insight into the daily lives of the monks. Using chronicles and letters from the period, the book provides a personal touch through the monks' own words. For an insight into the rules dictating the lives of Benedictine monks there is no better source than *The Rule Of Benedict*, written by St Benedict himself, which has guided monks for 15 centuries.



A portrait of a typical solemn Benedictine monk

PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE

The monasteries were an important part of the medieval communities and would provide the only source of medical treatment to many villages as well as war casualties. Monks would be trained in the art of medicine – often through books that they themselves had read and copied so that other generations could make use of the knowledge – and offered their services from a hospital attached to the monastery. Monks were known to amputate limbs, induce birth and cure scurvy.

GATHER FOR DINNER

Meals were eaten twice a day, in the morning and at midday, while from late spring to early autumn supper would also be served. The monks would gather in a large refectory and eat in silence as *Bible* passages were read by one their order – in a time when most of the population were illiterate, monks could read and write. As it was forbidden to eat four-legged animals, the meals were simple, largely consisting of bread and ale, which was drunk at every meal.

PRIVATE REFLECTION

A monk's life was first and foremost dedicated to prayer and worship and every day time would be set aside for private reflection and meditation. Strict silence was expected and two elders would patrol the monastery to ensure this was upheld. Anyone seen being idle, speaking or, even worse, cracking jokes would be harshly disciplined with beatings or forced seclusion.

COPY ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

All monks were required to read and write in Latin, and copying manuscripts was a vitally important task. A monk would sit for hours at a time hunched over a tiny table copying ancient texts onto parchment by hand. There would be no candles or fires for warmth because of the risk to the parchment. Making one copy of the *Bible* would take at least five years, so it was mind-numbing and backbreaking work, but it is because of their dedication that so many texts were preserved for future generations.

GET SOME REST

Even a monk's rest would be strictly disciplined, with roughly five hours' sleep between the evening prayers and the early 2am church service. Monks would usually sleep in cold dormitories with coarse blankets and straw mattresses that were searched every night by the abbot to avoid the men hiding any forbidden items there, such as alcohol to warm their bones when the nights were cold.

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Top 5 facts
RUPERT MURDOCH
HIGH-POWERED MEDIA MOGUL

01 HIS COMPANY IS IN OVER 70 COUNTRIES

With an annual revenue of over $30 billion (£19 billion), News Corp's reach extends across the planet. It boasts 25 million cable subscribers and 175 newspapers in 70 countries across the globe, easily reaching over 100 million consumers every week in the US, India, Europe and the Middle East.

KEITH RUPERT MURDOCH

Australian-American, 1931-present

Brief Bio

Business magnate Murdoch inherited Australia's News Limited from his father. He came to dominate the media as CEO of News Corporation, 20th Century Fox and British newspapers *News Of The World*, *The Sun* and *The Times*. Murdoch was forced to resign as director of News International in July 2011 after allegations of phone hacking, bribery and corruption.

02 Aged 22 he ran two newspapers

Murdoch was groomed to take over his father's media business, but it happened earlier than expected when his dad died of a heart attack in 1952. He refocused one of the papers to sport and celebrity news, and while this garnered criticism the circulation grew. Three years after taking control he bought another newspaper and began expanding his media empire.

03 He is an official holy knight

Despite not being Catholic himself, Murdoch was made a Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II, an honour bestowed on people in recognition of their personal service to the Church. While married to the Roman-Catholic Anna Torv, Murdoch contributed large donations to many Catholic causes.

04 At the Leveson Inquiry he was questioned for 6 hours

In 2012 the media mogul was summoned to appear before an inquiry investigating allegations of phone hacking at the *News Of The World*. At the Leveson Inquiry he admitted that the scandal had been a "serious blot on my reputation" but claimed to have not known phone hacking was going on at the paper.

05 His divorce broke records

When Murdoch divorced his wife Anna Torv it broke records as one of the most expensive divorces in history. Although the two separated on friendly terms, Anna received a reported £1 billion ($1.7 billion) divorce settlement from her ex-husband, who was keen to state that it would have no effect on his business interests.

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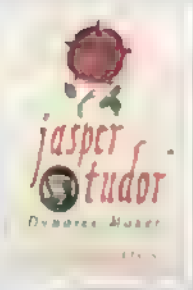

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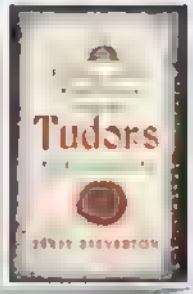

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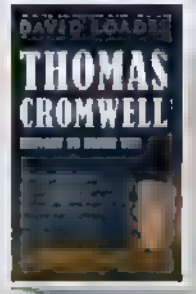

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GUERNSEY POST

Crown Prince Dipendra
According to Prabal Banly, who used to work for the Royal family, Dipendra had a sadistic streak as a child and was frequently seen being cruel to animals. The prince attended Eton college and was in the Nepal military academy, so had experience of weapons. He officially ruled Nepal for three days while he was in a coma in a Nepalese hospital.

King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah
The 11th king of Nepal, King Birendra ascended the throne in 1972 after the death of his father, King Mahendra. A liberal reformer, his reign saw mass demonstrations in favour of democracy culminate in the introduction of free elections in 1990.

Prince Nirajan Bir Bikram Shah Dev
Aged just 23 when he was killed, Nirajan was next in line to the throne. He was shot dead alongside his mother in the palace garden.

Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah
The Nepalese queen had been convent-educated in India and Nepal, graduating with a Bachelors' in Arts in 1967. Considered determined and forceful, the queen had taken a hard line against the pro-democracy movement of 1990 and was extremely critical of her son's relationship with Devyani Rana, which is thought to be a reason behind the massacre.

Princess Shruti Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah
Born in 1976, she was the younger sister of Prince Dipendra. She had remonstrated Dipendra some months previously over his relationship with Devyani Rana, urging him to end the relationship.

Eye Witness

ROYAL MASSACRE, NEPAL, 1 JUNE 2001

Written by Tom Farrell

> Dipendra was guilty of treason, but the constitution put the monarchy above the law

It was 10pm on Friday 1 June when I parted the curtain in my budget hotel and gazed across the streets of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Most of the population had retreated for the night and the city lights flickered in the blackness. I thought I heard wailing somewhere from the maze of brick alleys and squares that make up the Nepalese capital, home to 17 million people, but I soon retreated to bed. Unbeknownst to me, a few streets away, a cavalcade of ambulances was screaming down the boulevards toward the city's military hospital, bearing the bullet-torn bodies of the Nepalese royalty including the dead King Birendra.

Thus began the bizarre weekend-long reign of Nepal's penultimate monarch. Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev had been groomed for the throne since birth. He was heir to a 232-year-old dynasty that had ruled over the mountainous Himalayan kingdom, largely cut off from the outside world until well into the 20th century. Multiparty democracy had only arrived in 1990.

Prince Dipendra had gone to the prestigious Eton College in the 1980s. He had a black belt in karate and received military training from the Academy of the Royal Nepalese Gurkha Army. By the time he reached his twenties, his father King Birendra, was considered a popular liberal reformer. His mother, Queen Aishwarya, was said to have used Queen Elizabeth II as the role model of a modern, accessible monarch. Nepal's democratic transition was running into problems though. Liberal democracy had translated into a succession of fractious, ineffectual and corrupt administrations. They had done little to alleviate some of the worst levels of poverty and illiteracy in Asia. In the mountainous west, a group of insurgents, inspired by China's Chairman Mao, was gaining more and more territory with the aim to set up a communist republic.

This was the backdrop to the massacre of 1 June 2001 when Dipendra went on a machine-gun rampage in the Narayanhity Palace that left nine royals dead and five others injured, among them his parents, younger sister and brother. After he had conducted his murderous rampage he shot himself. When Dipendra's life support machine was switched off on Monday afternoon 4 June, Gyanendra, Dipendra's uncle assumed the throne – he would be Nepal's final monarch. I was in Nepal when this shocking incident took place and during the comatose three-day reign of the prince who has now a king because he had killed his father. During this strange period the national mood was one of disbelief, but collective emotions soon began to mirror the individual emotions usually associated with a traumatic loss; grief, denial and anger.

The royalty were the last thing on my mind on Saturday morning when I tramped down to the hotel lobby. The previous afternoon, I had interviewed staff at a local non-governmental organization (NGO) engaged in combating sex trafficking. Every year, thousands of Nepalese girls, kidnapped or tricked into leaving their villages, have ended up in Indian brothels. I also had a plan to travel west and hike into the Maoist-controlled uplands. In the lobby the hotel staff was sitting in rapt

Timeline of events

CST

7.30pm 1 June — The prince arrives
Crown Prince Dipendra Shah arrives at the palace for the biweekly family gathering. He retires to the billiards room and downs two shots of whisky.

8.00pm — Dipendra leaves to pick up the queen mother with whom he has a fond relationship. After delivering her to the palace, he returns to the billiards room.

8.12pm — Dipendra leaves
According to later records, the prince talks to his lover Devyani Rana at this time over the phone for around a minute.

8.15pm — An intoxicated Dipendra demands that an aide brings him special, marijuana-laced cigarettes. His brother and cousin escort him to bed.

8.25pm — Devyani Rana calls the prince's aides, after noting his slurred talk. She urges them to check on the prince.

8.30pm — Two orderlies reach his room and find him sprawled on the floor. Dipendra rises and goes to the bathroom, apparently throwing up.

8.39pm — Final call for lovers
He talks to Devanyi for the last time. Meanwhile, the royalty is assembling in the dining hall.

8.50pm — The prince, now donning army fatigues, collects weaponry from his large private collection of guns and assault rifles.

8.51pm — The massacre
Dipendra returns to the billiards room and fires into the ceiling. He leaves, re-enters and shoots one of his aunts. The king and two of his uncles are then shot dead.

8.53pm — Dipendra moves back to the door, shooting dead his sister Princess Shruti and wounding her husband. Three others are also shot dead.

8.55pm — He pursues Prince Nirajan and his mother into the palace inner garden, shoots both of them and crosses a bridge over a garden pond.

9.19pm — When security staff arrive, he is found lying on the bridge with a gunshot to the head. A 9mm Glock pistol and an M-16 rifle are discovered nearby.

9.24pm — Dipendra is taken to the military hospital.

5.57pm 2 June — Official mourning
The bodies of the dead royalty are taken to the Sri Pashupathinath Hindu temple for cremation. Dipendra remains comatose and is later taken off life support.

"The warning had already gone out that any curfew violators would be shot"

silence around the television, the royal family had been slaughtered. Considering the raft of conspiracy theories that would soon percolate through Kathmandu, the initial news was brutally succinct. Crown Prince Dipendra, armed with an M-16 rifle, Hechler and Koch MP-5 and Franchi combat rifle, had gunned down his parents, younger brother and sister, aunts and uncles.

The argument that had sparked the massacre had apparently centred on Dipendra's choice of future bride, Devyani Rana. He had first met her in England in 1989 and, as an heir to the Rana dynasty, Devyani's ancestors had been loyal subjects of the British Raj and owned lands in India larger than France. But the Rana and Shah dynasties had been rivals for the Nepalese throne for generations and his parents strongly disapproved of their romance. Dipendra was in a coma, having apparently shot himself in the head but, should he recover, a terrible legal conundrum would arise. Murdering his royal relatives made Dipendra guilty of treason, but the constitution put the monarch above the law. Would Nepal be ruled by a homicidal monarch who was exempt from prosecution?

I walked up to the outskirts of the Narayanhity Palace where thousands of Nepalese, sari-clad women with red ash on their foreheads and men with knit caps, were already congregating on the 13-kilometre (eight-mile) route that linked the military hospital with Sri Pashupatinath, a Hindu shrine where the slain royalty would be cremated, their ashes cast into the Bagmati River. At the gates of the palace, people lit incense, deposited flowers and signed books of condolences.

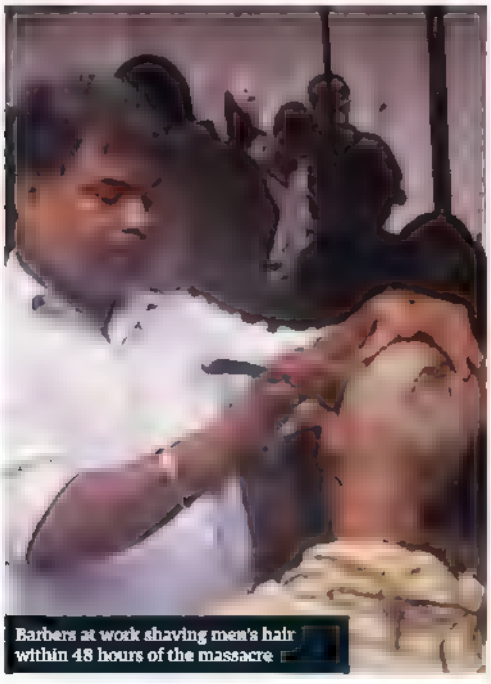
A handful of foreign television journalists fretted over their equipment on the flower-stacked roundabout at the end of the Dhurbar Marg boulevard. As I snapped pictures of the crowds, one old man stood up and began loudly berating me. The men around him just laughed and made twirling motions with their fingers around their temples to indicate that he was crazy.

At 5pm, ceremonial Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) cavalry clip-clopped on horseback onto the boulevard. I scanned the crowds who had assembled outside the shuttered sprawl of cafés and gift shops. The occasional western backpacker beheld the drama with bafflement. The evening was lengthening the shadows as police vans crawled past the crowds. And then, accompanied by wails and chants, came the dead royals.

I struggled with my own camera amid the flashes of nearly everyone else's; the palanquins containing each corpse were borne atop poles by Hindu priests in white vests and loin cloths. I saw that the face of Queen Aishwarya had been replaced by a china mask – most of it had been blown off by her son. All through the evening the television screens displayed the Shah royals' fiery send-off at the Sri Pashupatinath temple. The following day was Sunday: the calm before the storm. King Dipendra remained in a vegetative state.

On Monday morning I went to the suburb of Lalitpur, intending to meet members of another anti-trafficking

Nepalese police attempt to impose order less than 24 hours after the massacre


Barbers at work shaving men's hair within 48 hours of the massacre

Royal portrait of the king and queen covered with holy ash

NGO. Most businesses had closed by noon but there was one exception: the killings had been a boon for the city's barbers. In a traditional show of mourning for the slain monarchy, men were shaving their heads. It was thought that half the adult male population had bare scalps by Monday evening. On one empty street, I saw little hillocks of black hair everywhere.

I crossed over toward Ratna Park in the centre of the city where a truck of stubble-headed men waved the overlapping triangular red, blue and white Nepalese flag and held up a framed portrait of King Birendra. The mood was almost jovial and the bald mourners waved and gave me the thumbs up. Gurkha soldiers, their sheathed kukris (daggers) dangling at their hips, had also shaved their heads and behind the main stand in Ratna Park, I watched them wash their faces before marching toward a line of cannons. It had clouded over at noon. As the cannons boomed across the city, the rain began to fall heavily.

On the orders of his grandmother, the machinery that had sustained the 29-year old king's vital organs was switched off: Dipendra was declared dead at 5.57pm. Around two hours earlier, crowds had surged forward toward a police station on the far side of the park and soon after pallid clouds of tear gas billowed skyward.

On Tuesday 5 June, Nepal awoke under the rule of King Gyanendra Shah. His ascension was deeply resented. After the nighttime curfew ended, youths began burning tyres and stopping traffic in the northern sector of the city. At the far end of the boulevard, troops were assembling. The warning had already gone out that curfew violators would be shot. Indeed, the previous day's disturbances had killed at least four people and injured 30 more. One of the soldiers warned me to stay off the highway after 4pm.

When 4pm arrived, the RNA charged down the boulevard, waving their rifles and taking up strategic positions. After the curfew ended at dawn, shops and markets reopened but only until early afternoon. By now international flights had been disrupted and rumours were spreading along the teargassed, brick strewn streets. Some thought, erroneously, that the city's water supply had been poisoned.

The regicide was a dark and bloody tragedy. The official explanation, which blamed Dipendra and was validated by a seven-day inquiry carried out by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and Speaker of the House, was not good enough for many Nepalese. On Thursday 7 June, I sat in a city café as a student told me heatedly that Gyanendra, who was now king, had orchestrated the killings, Dipendra was merely the fall guy. After all, wasn't it suspicious how Gyanendra, who almost never left Kathmandu, just happened to be in a tourist resort in the West on the night of the massacre? It was little use pointing out that Gyanendra's wife, Princess Komal, had been seriously wounded in the shoot-up. The Nepalese monarch is revered as a partial incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. If the official explanation was true, it defiled some of the population's most sacred beliefs.

Within a few days a shaky normalcy seemed to return. There were no more curfews or arrests of journalists whose copy had been deemed 'seditious' by the government. But the nation remained deeply traumatized. If, as the conspiracy mongers maintained, it was a nefarious plot to put King Gyanendra on the throne, his victory proved a pyrrhic one as before the end of the decade Nepal would be a republic. Even so, the June 2001 massacre scars the Nepalese identity. So many years later, if meeting expatriate Nepalese, I am distinctly reluctant to share my memories of that strange weekend-long reign by the Old Etonian, turned demigod, turned serial killer.

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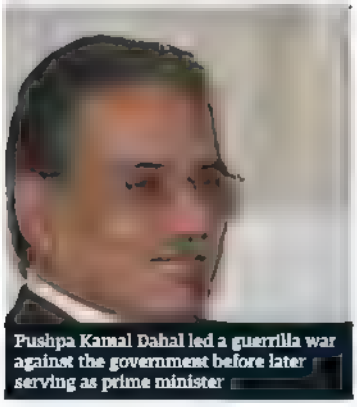
Origins and aftermath

The backdrop to the palace massacre was the People War, led by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist in the mountainous west of Nepal. After Gyanendra became king in 2001 he adopted a more authoritarian style of rule, establishing absolute rule in 2005 and trying to defeat the Maoists with force rather than negotiate. The heavy-handed tactics of the security forces in rural areas probably won the Maoists more recruits in the long term. By the time they ended their decade-long insurgency in November 2006, the Maoists ran a parallel state in much of the countryside, complete with co-operative shops, courts and road-building projects. In 2006, the Nepalese parliament took away the king's major powers and in May 2008 Nepal was turned into a republic. The Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, known as 'the Fierce One' was one of the republic's first prime ministers. The concept of monarchy is still popular in large parts of the country though, and Gyanendra has expressed interest in returning as king.


Pushpa Kamal Dahal led a guerrilla war against the government before later serving as prime minister

©Corbis

What was it like?

AMSTERDAM, 1637

In a period of dynamic change in the Netherlands, Amsterdam served as a worldwide beacon of freedom of religion, thought and speech during its golden age

Ruled by a Catholic Spanish king ignorant of their religious beliefs, Spanish colonies in the Netherlands led a revolt in the mid-16th century which lasted longer than any other rebellion in European history. Although initially squashed by the Spanish king Philip II, the mass uprising plunged Spain into a war against the rebellious northern provinces. The northern districts took advantage of their financially crippled enemy and established the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands in 1581. The war waged on and much of the southern Netherlands remained under Spanish rule, but the new republic threw its doors open to a whole new world of trade, education and religious freedom.

As Protestant and Jewish refugees of religious persecution flooded into the city, Amsterdam transformed from a tiny port into one of the foremost worldwide centres for trade and commerce. Residents enjoyed intellectual tolerance denied in their own countries and books about religion, science and philosophy that could not have been produced elsewhere found their way across oceans from what was now the publishing house of the world. In this progressive atmosphere, artists turned their attention from the lofty biblical scenes of old to finding the subtle beauty in everyday scenes of realism. This was Amsterdam's golden age, where the city enjoyed its greatest-ever period of cultural and financial prosperity.

Anton van Leeuwenhoek is considered to be the Father of Microbiology

Education

Great importance was placed on education in the Netherlands at this time, with the city boasting five world-renowned universities, which foreign students flocked to attend, with medicine a popular area of study. The focus on education also aided the publishing trade, with progressive books on philosophy, religion and science that other countries shunned being published in their thousands.

Amsterdam University was founded in 1632 and became a centre for excellence in medical teaching

Technology

Amsterdam attracted a host of highly skilled and innovative thinkers who were drawn to the freedom of intellectual thought the city offered. The pendulum clock, an important development in timekeeping, was created by Christiaan Huygens, while the field of microbiology was born when Anton van Leeuwenhoek used simple magnifiers to first study microscopic life.

Government

This was a time of major political upheaval – having declared independence from Spain, the Netherlands stood as a republic surrounded by monarchist regimes. There was no strong central authority in Amsterdam and power changed hands between elected members of the elite, with a city government comprising of 20 to 40 councillors.

The Nightwatch by Rembrandt is one of the most famous pieces of artwork produced during the Dutch golden age

What was it like? AMSTERDAM, 1637

The urban merchant class rose to prosperity in Dutch society

Industry

As Antwerp, previously Europe's foremost sugar refiner, fell during the Eighty Years' War, Amsterdam took its place and increased its sugar refineries from three to 50 in just 60 years. Dairy farming and grain production rose rapidly as the city's landscape was transformed, with its lakes being turned into polders. Another major industry was textiles, increasing from 50,000 pieces a year to 130,000.

Art

The Dutch golden age was a unique period for art as the decreasing support for the church, combined with the flood of wealth from merchants, shifted the focus from biblical subjects to the everyday. Realistic portraits of ordinary people, objects and landscapes soured in popularity with masters such as Rembrandt, Johannes Vermeer and Frans Hals producing some of their most acclaimed pieces.

Finance

Skilled craftsmen who had been ostracised by their own countries for their religion poured into the city, transforming it into the most important trading centre in the world thanks to these workers, as well as its central location. Vessels laden with exotic animals, spices, coffee and plants laid anchor at port creating so much revenue for the flourishing city that the first central bank, the Bank of Amsterdam, was established.

The Dutch East India Company was the first-ever multinational corporation

Military

The Dutch military was at its strongest during this period, and this was just as well as it was fighting a war against Spain, which did not officially end until 1648. Funded by the ample gold from new trade flooding into the city as well as the invention of the sawmill, the Dutch Navy was headed by an impressive fleet of ships that would lead them to their eventual independence.

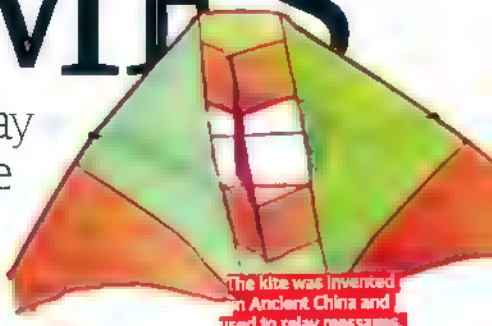
The Siege of Grave was an important success for the Dutch during the Eighty Years' War

TOYS & GAMES

From the dawn of civilisation, humans have wanted to play even the most primitive objects were transformed into the most wondrous of toys. Check out some of history's best

BOARD GAME 3100 BCE

One of the earliest toys to be discovered, the humble board game is now over 5,000 years old, with the Ancient Egyptian game of Senet dating from prior to 3100 BCE. The game's name translates as the 'game of passing' and while its rules have been lost in time, it was played on a board consisting of 30 squares and with two sets of five pawns. Many depictions of Senet being played still exist, including one of the famous Queen Nefertari sat in contemplation during a game.



KITE 500 BCE

Purportedly the invention of the Ancient Chinese polymath Mozi, the first kites were produced from silk and bamboo, with the former acting as the fabric for the sail and the latter used to create a light but strong framework. These first kites were prestigious items, made only for the aristocracy, and were often depicted with mythological and legendary figures upon them. Soon however, simpler and cheaper kites began to be produced made out of paper and the toy began to proliferate worldwide with historical figures such as Marco Polo bringing the items back from the East to the West.

MARBLES 3000 BCE

A toy that has appeared independently in many ancient cultures, marbles are one of humanity's most produced toys. Early examples of marbles have been discovered dating from Ancient Egypt, China and Rome, with the small balls constructed from clay, glass and even rock frequently found buried in graves and tombs. Which games were played with the marbles in each culture is unknown, but reference to their use can be found in Roman literature and art. Marbles are still incredibly popular as toys to this day and are now produced on an industrial scale.

YO-YO 800 BCE

While it is believed the yo-yo was invented in Ancient China, the first surviving depiction of the toy dates from Ancient Greece, with a boy depicted playing with a terracotta variety. In fact, despite its current fame dating from the 1930s - when the name 'yo-yo' was coined and the first mass-production began - the toy has repeatedly cropped up throughout history, with several depictions of women and children playing with them through Renaissance and Victorian literature and art. The modern transaxle type of yo-yo as used to perform tricks today was pioneered in the 1980s.

RAG DOLL 150 CE

The rag doll is among the oldest toys discovered, with a few Roman examples dating from the early centuries CE surviving for study. These dolls were made from coarse linen stuffed with rags and papyrus, with coloured wool used to create hair, as well as wood and clay to create any accompanying shoes and accessories. Historians believe these dolls would have been widespread in Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, but due to the perishable nature of their construction materials, not many have survived for excavation today.

CUP-AND-BALL 1550

Reportedly a favourite toy of King Henry III of France and then later of King Louis XV, the cup-and-ball has become synonymous with children's toys over the past 450 years. The toy consists of a cup with a bottom-mounted handle and a wooden ball, attached to the cup via rope or cord. The purpose of the toy is to try and swing the ball up from its starting position into the cup with one jerked arm motion. Every time the ball lands in the cup, the user is awarded a point, with the aim of the game to set high scores.

Today toy soldiers are usually made out of plastic rather than the traditional tin or other metals

TOY SOLDIERS 1730

While miniature military figures have been discovered in Ancient Egyptian tombs – and infrequently each century since then – it was not until the 18th century that they were properly assigned a toy status on an industrial scale. The first modern-style toy soldiers were produced in Germany, with the military figures produced from tin by moulding the metal between two slate pieces. These figures were heavy and crudely modelled, but took off throughout the country and then Europe, with children playing out historical battles with them. The hollow-cast metal and plastic figures that are popular today were introduced in the late-19th century.

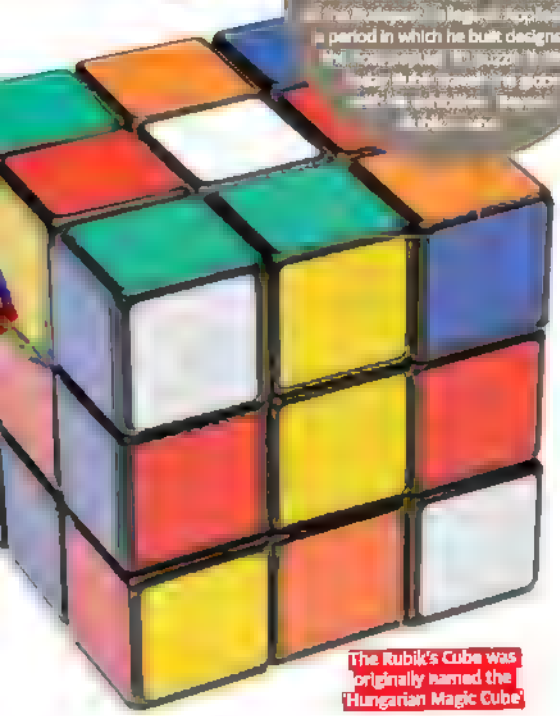
Americans were so taken by the slinky that in 2002 President George W Bush called it the national toy of the United States

SLINKY 1945

One of history's oddest toys, the slinky consists of a pre-compressed helical spring made from metal or plastic that can be used to perform a number of tricks, including the classic drop down a flight of steps. The toy was invented in the USA by naval engineer Richard James and, after a demonstration at a department store in 1945, it rapidly became a best-seller throughout the country and then the world, with the toy racking up a phenomenal 300 million sales in over 60 years.

Ernő Rubik
HUNGARIAN

The creator of the famous Rubik's Cube, Rubik was born in Budapest, Hungary. After completing his PhD [illegible] a period in which he built designs for [illegible]



The Rubik's Cube was originally named the 'Hungarian Magic Cube'

RUBIK'S CUBE 1980

Created by Hungarian sculptor and architect Ernő Rubik, the toy is a 3D combination puzzle consisting of a cube with six faces, with each face covered by nine stickers made up from one of six colours. For the Cube to be solved, each of its faces needs to be returned to a position where it is one of the solid colours, done by manipulating the toy's internal pivot mechanism. The current world record for solving the Cube is an incredible 5.55 seconds.

PORTABLE GAMES CONSOLE 1989

A machine that ushered in the era of electronic toys for children, Nintendo's Game Boy was revolutionary, allowing users to play video games while out and about. Games consoles had existed prior to it, but due to their price and size, they never took off as mainstream toys. The Game Boy changed all that, offering a simple, lightweight system to play titles such as *Tetris* and *Super Mario Land* and, by the end of its life span, the system had sold 118 million units. Since its release many other portable games consoles have been introduced, with the present-day Nintendo 3DS one of the most popular toys on the market today.

The Nintendo Game Boy kicked off the concept of portable gaming consoles as toys

Gunpei Yokoi
JAPANESE 1941–1997

[illegible] notable being 1989's Game Boy. After 31 years at the company Yokoi left Nintendo in 1996, setting up a new company to work on other gaming systems.

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EMPEROR MEIJI

Emperor Meiji oversaw the transition of Japan into the modern era

Despite welcoming many foreign heads of states and royals, the emperor couldn't speak a word of English

"Meiji's revolution would not spare anyone who stood in the way of his country's modernisation – the ancient samurai warriors would soon find themselves in the firing line"

Heroes & Villains
Emperor Meiji

Born into a country ravaged by political turmoil, Meiji led Japan from feudal state to one of the foremost powers of the modern world

Written by Frances White

The year was 1852 and the once-grand emperors of Japan had become mere figureheads. They had no real power, for the true reign of the emperors ended in the 9th century when the shoguns, mighty military men with a lust for power, had seized control for themselves. The emperors remained as a symbolic reminder of what once was, but the shogun held the power and they used it to mould Japan into a land ruled by a strict hierarchy. They created a country separated from what lay across its shores, with few residents ever glimpsing the world beyond Japan, the doors to the kingdom were locked tight. This was all about to change, though, and the arrival of an American ship of war would forever alter Japan.

The young Meiji, then known as Sachinomiya, or Prince Sachi, wasn't even a year old when the American commodore Matthew Perry and his fleet dropped anchor at Edo Harbour in 1853. The iron ships stood stark and powerful against the traditional Japanese fleet and the commodore demanded Japan opened its shores to trade else face the might of the US military. Faced with an infinitely superior opponent with advanced weaponry from what seemed an alien world, the shogun complied with the Americans and opened Japan's seas to trade.

While the child emperor struggled to apply himself to the classic education expected of heirs to the throne, unrest was brewing. Opposed to the inclusion of foreigners and their dangerous influence into a land ruled by tradition, large numbers of samurai gathered and made a decision – these ancient warriors who were ruled by honour decided the shoguns had proved ineffective in protecting Japanese interests. Only one person could put everything right: their emperor.

As a severe economic depression and devastating famine ravaged the land, the popularity of the shogun waned. Seeing his chance, Meiji's father, Emperor Kōmei complied with the samurai and issued the order to "revere the emperor and expel barbarians." Although this would be impossible to carry out, it sent a clear message that Japan didn't want anything to do with the outside world and foreigners were not welcome. Just when it seemed that the Japanese emperor would once again, after many centuries, wield real and tangible power, the 36-year old Emperor Kōmei suddenly dropped dead. Allegations of his poisoning quickly flew across the country as did speculation about what his death meant for the future of the country and what role his 14-year-old son would play. Completely uneducated on matters of politics, the young Meiji ascended the throne February of 1867 in the height of political turmoil that was threatening to snap Japan in two.

Meiji was an avid poet and wrote more than 100,000 poems in his lifetime

Before the restoration, crown princes received only classical education and were not trained in political matters

Life in the time of Emperor Meiji

Religious turmoil
As the emperor was restored to power, there was also a shift to return to a Shinto-orientated state. Buddhism had been connected with the shogun, so there was mass destruction of Buddhist images and text and priests were forced to become Shinto priests. Anti-Buddhist riots swept the country and from 1872 to 1874 around 18,000 temples were destroyed.

Spontaneous parties
A movement known as eejanaika spread across Japan from 1867 to 1868 at the height of the country's political unrest. It involved carnivalesque celebrations and dancing festivals, which descended into mass riots and political protest. Amulets were said to have fallen from heaven, prompting thanksgiving festivals that involved cross-dressing, gift exchanges and even naked dancing.

Industrial Revolution
Japan's landscape dramatically changed as the Industrial Revolution took full effect in 1870. Railroads and improved roads stretched across the country as steel and textile factories were erected in rural areas. For the first time, Japanese students travelled abroad to Europe and America to study modern mathematics, technology and foreign languages.

Military advances
The military underwent dramatic modernisation in an effort to catch up with Western powers. As well as mass telegraph lines, there was construction of shipyards, mines and munitions factories. The military structure was completely shaken up and took on the French rank structure, while cadets were sent abroad to foreign schools to learn modern naval and military techniques.

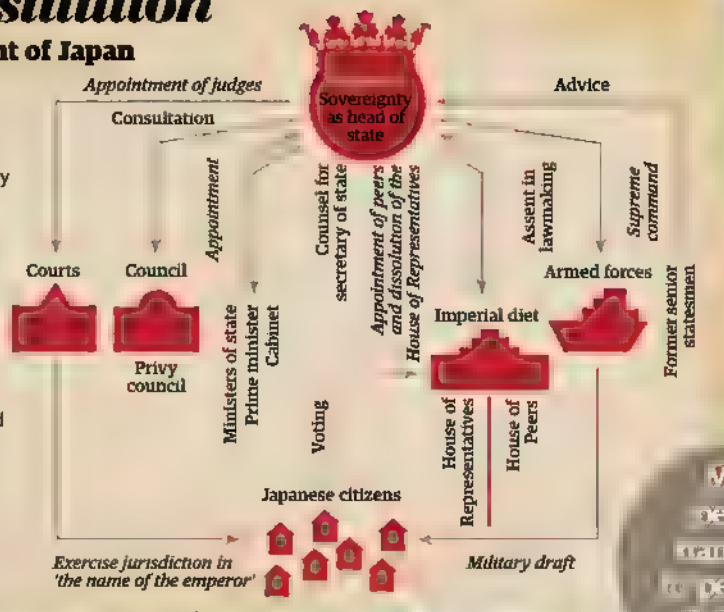
The new vs the old
The conflict between old and young found itself manifesting in a traditional Japanese haircut known as the chonmage. Many young Japanese men were quick to ditch the old hairstyle in favour of more casual Western styles, but groups of people defended the style, and even resulted in weddings being cancelled and mothers abandoning sons who got rid of it.

Meiji Constitution

How the government of Japan changed forever

Before it was changed into a new form (see the graphic to the right), a strict class system had ruled Japan since the 12th century in which the shoguns held the most power.

On the other end of the scale, butchers, executioners and tanners were deemed unclean and forced to live away from others. On the bottom rung were merchants, regarded as parasites who fed off the labour of others. Artisans who produced clothes, books and utensils sat on the third rung. Unlike many other class systems, the farmers and peasants were second on the social ladder; because all the classes beneath them relied on the food they produced.



The struggle for power reached its brutal climax at the Battle of Ueno where the imperial forces, led by passionate samurai Saigo Takamori, crushed 2,000 supporters of the shogun order putting an end to the last trace of resistance in Edo. Saigo led his forces into the city of Edo and claimed it in the name of the emperor. Meiji quickly moved his capital from Kyoto to the newly named Tokyo. The streets the 16-year-old emperor travelled down on his arrival were lined with people cheering the return of the traditional head of state. On 4 January 1868 the young emperor read out a document before the court in the same restrained style he would conduct his reign, "The Emperor of Japan announces to the sovereigns of all foreign countries and to their subjects that permission has been granted to the Shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu to return the governing power in accordance with his own request. We shall henceforward exercise supreme authority in all the internal and external affairs of the country." Feudalism was dead. The age of emperors had returned.

As the young emperor was formally crowned in a grand ceremony, a name was given to the new era that his reign would usher in – Meiji, or enlightened rule. The emperor was keen to show that he was not his father's son and rather than remaining in the dusty outdated traditions of old, under his rule Japan would embrace everything it needed to become the greatest country it could be. The samurai who had fought so strongly against the shogun's attitude to foreign influence made it their primary aim to restore the pride and prestige of Japan around the world at any cost. They had fought for their emperor and helped him regain power, but Meiji's revolution would not spare anyone who stood in the way of his country's modernisation – the ancient samurai warriors would soon find themselves in the firing line.

Meiji period translates to 'period of enlightened rule'

The call to 'expel the barbarians' of the shogun had transformed to an open-minded attitude of 'civilisation and enlightenment.' This quest began by changing the very mode of governing itself. The revolutionaries created a council of state, and beneath them a government was formed. With such a dramatic shift in focus, the main concern was keeping the support of the Japanese population, which was easier in rural parts of the country where the emperor was still revered as an incarnation of god on Earth. Meiji sat at the top of the pyramid, the imperial head, and would prove essential in orchestrating the creation of a new and powerful Japan.

Having been so brutally introduced to a world that could crush them easily with their industrial weapons of war, Japan needed to fundamentally change if it had any hope of becoming a world power.

The samurai had stood as the single absolute power for generations; there was a time when refusing to bow to a samurai could result in instant decapitation. The emperor and his ministers slowly but surely broke down the samurai class, first of all by taxing the stipends (a form of salary) that had proved such a financial burden for years, then by demanding all samurai turned their stipends into government bonds. The final deathblow though, was the order for national conscription in 1873, which removed the ancient privilege of bearing arms reserved for samurai alone – now anyone could carry a weapon. This, along with the fact that new weapons such as pistols and rifles required much less skill to use (any farmer could now be trained to kill with a gun) decreased the samurai's power further.

Defining moment

Boshin War 1868-1869

Pro-imperial forces mainly comprising of samurai from the Chōshū, Satsuma and Tosa domains join together to overthrow the shogunate rule and reinstate the emperor. This plunges Japan into a civil war and feeling the pressure upon him, Shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu steps down from power. However, shogunate forces are not so quick to surrender, and Yoshinobu leads a military campaign against the newly reinstated emperor. In the modern day the restoration of the emperor will be viewed as a relatively bloodless revolution, but with the mobilisation of 120,000 troops and at least 3,500 casualties, the eventual imperial victory and restoration of the emperor as supreme authority comes at a cost.

Timeline

1852

- **Birth of an emperor** Emperor Meiji is born as Sachi-nomiya. His mother is Nakayama Yoshiko, a concubine of Emperor Kōmei, and he is the emperor's second son. He will be the only one of his six children to survive to adulthood. **3 November 1852**
- **The black ships** Commodore Matthew Perry arrives in Japan with a fleet of US ships and demands Japan opens itself up to trade or face military action. It is clear that Japan's technology is desperately outdated. **8 July 1853**
- **Mass unrest** After the Treaty of Kanagawa opens Japan to foreign trade the Sonnō jōi movement to 'revere the emperor, expel the barbarians' comes into full force. **1850s – 1860s**
- **A new emperor** After the unexpected – and unexplained – death of his father on 30 January, the crown prince ascends to the throne at just 14 years old. **3 February 1867**
- **End of the shogun** After a brutal and bloody military campaign, imperial rule is restored and the emperor returns to full power as the last reigning shogun, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, steps down. **1868**
- **Tokyo is born** The capital of Japan is changed from Kyoto to Edo, which is renamed Tokyo. The emperor and his imperial court move to Tokyo. **1868**

All of the emperor's children were born to official ladies-in-waiting rather than his wife, Empress Shōken

"The Japanese had achieved in less than 40 years what took the British and the Industrial Revolution 150"

With the almighty samurai class abolished a new consciousness awoke across Japan and for the first time in thousands of years genuine social mobility seemed possible. A sense of opportunity swept over the land as suddenly everyone had the ability to improve their own lives, to make their fortune and to have a hand in shaping Japan. In rural regions, young men and women from generations of families who had tirelessly worked the fields joined together in ramshackle huts and wrote their own constitutions of what they thought Japan should be. After living in a strict class system ruled by the shoguns, suddenly everyone had a chance to have their voices heard.

The changes sweeping through Japan under Meiji weren't gradual, but descended in an avalanche. The abolition of the ban on wheeled vehicles caused the rise in popularity of the rickshaw, horse-drawn trolleys and finally the symbol of Japan's modernisation itself, the train.

Just 15 years after Perry had bestowed a gift of a toy train to the shogun, a real one carried passengers from Tokyo or Yokohama. The emperor, ever a symbol for his country to follow, led the way in western fashion, dressing in smart Victorian-style suits, while citizens all over Japan added western umbrellas, hats, watches and shoes to their wardrobes. Although the emperor remained as a mostly silent figurehead for the nation, there was one cause he championed above all – education. As compulsory education was introduced for all children, education came to represent the path to a better life, transforming the once divided country into a land of equal opportunity for anyone willing to work for it.

The change of Japan from an obscure island state, rooted in the past, to a major world power was one of the most impressive and dramatic achievements of any nation in world history. Silk farms that had been tended by the same families for hundreds of years transformed into textile factories, and then just years later became steel mills, helping to equip the new efficient and powerful Japanese army. The world's focus turned to Japan as the nation decimated their Chinese rivals in the Sino-Japanese War, and even toppled the mighty Russian army in the Russo-Japanese War. At an unprecedented pace, Japan had transformed from a backward feudal land to a major world power. The Japanese had achieved in less than 40 years what took the British and the Industrial Revolution 150.

Although Meiji had 15 children, only five of them survived into adulthood

Meiji's modernisation came at a cost, though, as children as young as 11 were put to work in textile mills, while coal mines were filled with prisoners, outcasts and poor farmers. Work in the scorching-hot shafts was essential for the country's modernisation, but in the 130-degree heat naked, starving men and women crawled, worked and died in the darkness. This was how Japan paid for its modernisation and place in the world.

For away from these horrors the emperor sat at his royal court. An intensely private man, little is known about Meiji, even to this day. His steely expression and imperial hosting gave away little of his personality, even to those he was closest too. The only window into his soul are the poems he left behind, which tell the tale of a thoughtful and sensitive man who valued peace and unity above all. It then seems fitting that to this day he is revered not for the man himself, but instead as a symbol of the transformation of feudal Japan and for the enterprising, forward-thinking spirit that runs through Japanese society to this day.

Defining moment

Satsuma Rebellion 1877

After working with the government for nine years, the samurai of Satsuma, who helped end the shogun rule, dislike Emperor Meiji's actions. The abolition of the samurai class has left many of them homeless and the rapid modernisation is seen as a betrayal of the ancient ways. Saigo Takamori, a senior Satsuma leader, resigns from his government position and leads a samurai army. The rebellion is spirited and bloody, but the imperial forces end it swiftly with their superior weapons. Saigo commits ritual suicide in traditional samurai fashion, seppuku – suicide by disembowelment.

Defining moment

Meiji Constitution 1890

After having no written constitution in its history, the Meiji Constitution is set up. Based on the Prusso-German model, it places the emperor as head of state, active in government with great political power. This power is shared with an elected diet consisting of a House of Peers, inspired by the Prussian Herrenhaus, and a House of Representatives, resembling the British House of Lords. Its second chapter deals with the rights of citizens, similar to the US Constitution.

Sino-Japanese War
The Empire of Japan defeats the Qing Dynasty of China for control of Korea after six months of military successes, largely attributed to the greatly advanced weapons and military of the Japanese forces.
1894-1895

Russo-Japanese War
Known as the first great war of the 20th century, Japan shocks the world by defeating Tsar Nicholas II's Russian forces, firmly cementing its position as a major world power of the modern age.
1904-05

Annexation of Korea
Korea becomes a colony of Japan after a treaty annexing Korea to Japan is signed. Within the treaty the Korean emperor agrees to hand sovereign power of Korea to Emperor Meiji. Japan will rule Korea for 35 years.
1910

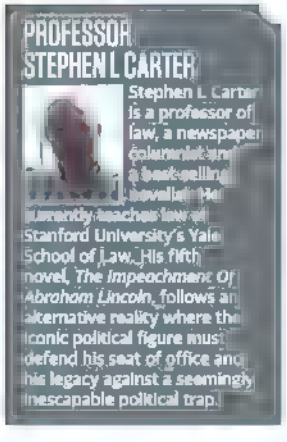
An era ends
Aged 59 Emperor Meiji dies from uraemia after suffering from multiple diseases. He is given the reign name Meiji and his single surviving son Taisho becomes Emperor with no hint of a revolution.
1912

What if...

Abraham Lincoln hadn't been assassinated?

UNITED STATES, 1865

Written by Dom Reseigh-Lincoln


PROFESSOR
STEPHEN L CARTER
Stephen L Carter is a professor of law, a newspaper columnist and a bestselling novelist. He currently teaches law at Stanford University's Yale School of Law. His fifth novel, *The Impeachment Of Abraham Lincoln*, follows an alternative reality where the iconic political figure must defend his seat of office and his legacy against a seemingly inescapable political trap.

What if Abraham Lincoln hadn't been assassinated?
It's a question that many historians - and many writers - have pondered over since that fateful day in 1866. In short, had Lincoln survived his assassination (or if someone else had been shot in his place, such as the original intended target, Andrew Johnson) history would have certainly deviated. However, Lincoln's actions before and during the Civil War would have ultimately sealed his position as one of the most tenacious yet pragmatic politicians to have ever held office in the United States

Had Lincoln lived, would there have been further attempts on his life?
From the records we have, it appears that most of the former leaders of the Confederacy including many of the members of the planter aristocracy, were appalled at Lincoln's assassination. This was not, as some Southern apologists used to argue, because of some sense of honour, still less from a moral squeamishness. The leaders saw Lincoln, who had so crushed them, as their best hope of holding off radical demands for further punishment of the South.

Incidentally, some of Lincoln's rivals did worry that he might seek a third term in office, contrary to what was then still the unbroken practice of US presidents. There were even rumours that he planned to serve as president for life. How these fears would have played out had he lived - or even whether he would have run again in 1868 - there is no way to know [whether that would have happened].

What were Lincoln's reconstruction plans for the country after the Civil War had ended?
Carter: Lincoln was somewhat cagey on his precise plan for reconstruction. He began publicly discussing how to reconstruct the South in 1863 and 1864, while the war was still going on. Many historians therefore take the view that Lincoln's plan should be taken with a grain of salt: he was quite likely dangling it as a carrot, to induce some or all of the states in rebellion to surrender. We don't know for sure what he would have done later.

This plan had three essential elements. The best known is probably the "ten per cent" rule, holding that a state in rebellion could be readmitted once ten per cent of its eligible voters foreswore the Confederacy and pledged allegiance to the Union. At that point, the state would be allowed to form a new government, create a constitution and send representatives to Congress. Second, Lincoln promised to pardon all those who took part in the rebellion, apart from the high-ranking leaders. Third, he promised to protect private property other than slaves.

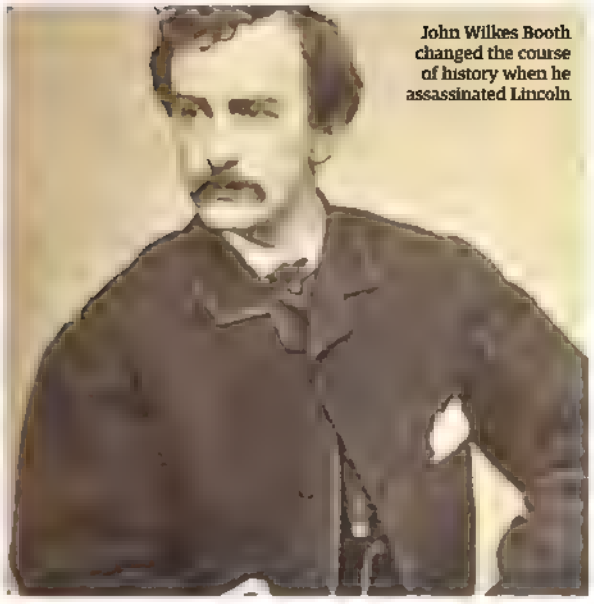
This last point was particularly clever. It's often forgotten that slaves were owned mainly by the planter aristocracy. The poor and working-class men who fought for the Confederacy were very unlikely to come from slaveholding families. Throughout the South, resentment of the slave-holding class was considerable. This resentment helped the northwestern corner of Virginia to secede from the state during the war (laying the foundation for the state of West Virginia), and might easily have led to secession (and return to the Union) of the western hills of North Carolina, where poor farms were plentiful and slaves were few.

Would Lincoln have been willing to compromise?
Lincoln was a wily politician - one of the best at the art of horse-trading. Had he lived, he likely would have reached a compromise with the radicals. He preferred, as he liked to say, an oath in which a man would pledge to do no wrong hereafter (as opposed to an oath insisting he had never done wrong), but he also made it clear that he could live with the

New York Herald
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 1868
LINCOLN IN IMPEACHMENT THREAT
President accused of overstepping constitutional authority during civil war and may be subjected to trial

"Lincoln did many things any modern president would be impeached for"

The Civil War was fierce and bloody – as this painting of the Battle of Manassas depicts



John Wilkes Booth changed the course of history when he assassinated Lincoln

stronger oath that Johnson preferred. The parties would surely have settled on some percentage between - perhaps 25 - of the eligible voters.

What's harder to predict is what Lincoln would have done about the freedmen. He wound up in a position of largely supporting black suffrage – not at all where he had begun – but he insisted that it not be made a condition of readmission to the Union. It isn't clear what sort of civil-rights legislation he would have supported. However, even had he supported the bills that Congress adopted after his assassination, the chances are that the Supreme Court would have held them unconstitutional anyway, which is what happened.

"During the war years [...] he became content with the idea that the freed slaves would stay in the US"

Andrew Johnson was eventually impeached by Congress – had he lived, would Lincoln have faced a similar fate?

Here I want to be crystal clear. Although I have written a novel imagining a world in which Lincoln lived and was impeached, I do not think it likely that he would have been impeached. He was, as you suggest, too savvy. I am not sure that, as in my novel, he would have used various intrigues to battle his opponents. But I think he would have found compromise on the big issues.

Moreover, I doubt his opponents would seriously have tried. Lincoln enjoyed enormous prestige in the Union, without regard to the disdain in which he was held by the leadership of his own party. Breaking down that public support would have been an enormous task, and one that I suspect the leaders of the radicals would have hesitated to undertake.

How would the journey toward civil rights for all US citizens been different under Lincoln's direction?

How would it be different?

Real timeline

Civil War breaks out
South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas, secede from the United States, forming the Confederate States of America and plunging the country into war. **12 April 1861**

1861

Lincoln is inaugurated
Mere weeks before the main slave states would secede from the United States, Republican Party leader Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th US president. He's also the first Republican to hold the highest seat of office.
4 March 1861

Emancipation Proclamation is issued
As part of his crusade to abolish slavery in the United States, Lincoln issues a presidential proclamation that deems all the slaves in the ten rebellion states of the Confederacy to be free.
1 January 1863

Lincoln is assassinated
Just six days after the Confederate States surrender to the Union, Lincoln attends Ford's Theatre with his wife Mary Todd Lincoln, diplomat Henry Rathbone and Rathbone's fiancé Clara Harris. John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathiser, and his conspirators decide to kill Lincoln. After barging into Lincoln's box at the theatre Booth shoots Lincoln in the head at point-blank range.
11 April 1865

Johnson becomes president
Lincoln's vice president, Andrew Johnson, is named the 17th president of the United States. A Democrat who ran with Lincoln on the Union Ticket, Johnson begins his presidency with plans to quickly reintegrate the seceded states. **15 April 1865**

Real timeline

Alternate timeline

An assassin thwarted
Confederate sympathiser John Wilkes Booth enters Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, with the desire to kill president Lincoln, the symbol of the South's undoing. However, the plot is discovered and Booth is wounded.
11 April 1865

This is a question over which many historians have puzzled. Lincoln himself evolved during the course of the war. Originally he was against slavery, but thought the freed slaves should be returned to Africa. Originally he took the view that perhaps some of the more intelligent black men should be allowed to vote, but that was all. Lincoln also took the view that the white man and the black man, whatever their legal rights, could never be truly equal. He was a product of the frontier in which he grew up, and his views for that time and place, were actually somewhat progressive.

During the war years, his views began to change. He became content with the idea that the freed slaves would stay in the United States. He seemed to embrace the cause of what was known as "universal Negro suffrage." As I mentioned above, I don't want to claim that had Lincoln lived, the great sweep of history would have been different. That attaches too much importance to a single individual. But would there have perhaps been more progress, more swiftly, at least in a few areas? I would like to think so.

What would the repercussions of such an impeachment have been for Lincoln? How would it have affected his political career and ultimately his place in history?

Those who are martyred often fare better in history than those who are not. In Lincoln's day, it was common for members of the educated classes to claim that every president since Andrew Johnson (whom the elite didn't like anyway) had been mediocre. Lincoln plainly wasn't mediocre; the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 13th Amendment proved that.

I think his place in history would, or should, in any case have been secure. But it is the assassination, I think, that raised him to an exalted status that leaves him difficult to criticise. Would I still consider him, as I do, the greatest of the US presidents? I would like to think the answer is yes. But of course I have no sure way to tell.

Lincoln had to make some rather unpopular, perhaps even brutal, decisions to help facilitate the end of the Civil War. What would the repercussions have been for him following the end of the war?

Lincoln wasn't Booth's original target – he originally intended to assassinate Ulysses S Grant and Andrew Johnson

In prosecuting the war, Lincoln suspended the right of habeas corpus. He ignored court orders to release prisoners. He allowed his secretary of state and his military to imprison journalists. He had his secret service read every telegram sent in the United States. He used force to prevent the Maryland legislature from meeting to vote on secession. The list goes on. Lincoln did many things any modern president would be impeached for. But it's important to remember that the office itself was young in his day and his understanding of his own powers arose at a time when the government was weak, and the need for action was strong. I'm not justifying the things he did, I'm just trying to place them in context.

Have your say

Do you agree with our expert's view?

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Reconstruction begins
A plan detailed by Lincoln before his death, 'Reconstruction' is designed to reunify the states and heal a country ravaged by war. Under Johnson, the process is accelerated. **1865-1877**

Alaska is purchased
Alongside secretary of state William Seward, Andrew Johnson oversees the purchase of Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million. The newly acquired territory is renamed the District of Alaska. **30 March 1867**

Secretary of war suspended
Johnson, increasingly unpopular with Congress, comes to blows with secretary of war Edwin Stanton. Johnson demands his resignation, Stanton refuses and Johnson suspends him. **5 August 1857**

A public trial
Booth is publicly tried for his crime. The court, made up mostly of Northerners, finds him guilty by unanimous vote. He's sentenced to hang. Lincoln, keen to strengthen the fragile relationship with the South, pardons him. **9 June 1865**

Civil Rights Act is enacted
Despite Johnson's attempt to veto it, Congress passes the first federal law that defines that all US citizens are equal in the eyes of the law, including former slaves and members of the defeated Confederacy. **9 April 1866**

Lincoln is impeached
A radical movement manages to organise an impeachment of the president based on the Reconstruction's lack of substance and his unwillingness to punish the rebel states. Lincoln is savvy enough to use the event to his advantage. **1868**

Congress impeaches Johnson
Johnson informs Congress of Stanton's suspension. Congress reinstates Stanton, who is then suspended again by Johnson. Congress impeaches Johnson for being in breach of the Tenure of Office Act. **24 February 1868**

Civil Rights Act passed
Lincoln appeases the radical movement within the Republican Party by pushing through the 14th Amendment, ensuring the rights of every US citizen. **15 January 1866**

Reconstruction starts
Congress pushes hard for a tangible start to Reconstruction, but Lincoln is unwilling to accelerate it, much to VP Johnson's chagrin. However, in late-1867, Lincoln commences the process. **September 1867**

The white uprising
The newly formed Ku Klux Klan attacks African-American families and agents of the Freedman Bureau. With the help of war hero Ulysses S Grant, Lincoln sees the Klan dismantled. **August 1868**

A country reunited
A shaken yet resolute Lincoln concedes that Reconstruction needs a swifter resolution. Eventually, the rebel states are reintegrated into the Union with enough sanctions to appease the North. **1870**

Lincoln passes away
Having seen Reconstruction through to its end, Lincoln passes away a year after his beloved wife Mary. The country mourns the loss of their former president. **November 1882**

"Sprinting through machine-gun fire back to the cover of a building, he lies prone, reloads his PIAT and fires at the tank two more times"

Major Robert Henry Cain's Victoria Cross

Why did he win it?
Major Cain was awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the Battle of Arnhem, where he commanded the 2nd South Staffordshire regiment. He personally disabled and destroyed several German tanks.

Where was the battle?
Oosterbeek, near Arnhem, The Netherlands.

When did it take place?
17-26 September 1944.

When was he awarded the Victoria Cross?
6 December 1944.

What was the popular reaction?
Although Operation Market Garden had been a total disaster, those who managed to escape the battlefield returned to a hero's welcome. Major Cain was the only surviving recipient of the five Victoria Crosses that were awarded after the brutal battle.

This photo [illegible] April [illegible] Arnhem, the worst city [illegible]

HEROES OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

Major Robert Henry Cain

WWII, THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM, 17-26 SEPTEMBER 1944

Written by Tim Williamson

Hushed, anxious voices and the clattering of kit echoes around the old church at Oosterbeek, as the early morning light filters in and begins to rouse the British troops. One officer, Major Richard 'Dickie' Lonsdale, makes his way through the pews, lined full of sleeping soldiers, toward the pulpit. Some look up as he passes, noticing his arm in a sling and the bloodied bandage wrapped around his head. Casting his eye over the beleaguered and unlikely congregation, already bloodied and worn down from four days of fighting in enemy territory Lonsdale draws a breath and pauses as he musters up what words of encouragement he can.

Major Robert Cain, of the 2nd South Staffordshire regiment, was among Lonsdale's men that day huddled in the church just east of the Dutch town of Arnhem. The 35-year old military veteran knew more than most just what was coming their way, and he had more reason than most to want revenge. Operation Market Garden, the British and Polish-led advance into German-occupied Holland, had so far been a disaster and was on the brink of failure. Cain's regiment had been one of those that had borne the worst of the fighting.

The plan had been to pull off one of the largest aerial assaults ever conceived, capture key bridges on the Rhine and return home for tea and medals. The 2nd Army, as well as Polish brigades, would then move up from the south to support and help hold the positions. However, the British paratroopers and other infantry had dropped right into the heart of two German Panzer divisions. What was supposed to be a surprise attack, meeting limited resistance, turned into a massacre.

After joining the 2nd battalion in 1942, Cain saw action during the invasion of Sicily, in what would be the campaign to drive the Nazis from Italy. As well as amphibious landings, a number of British and US troops were dropped in by parachute and glider, but difficulties with weather and landing the fragile gliders safely presented grave peril before the troops even got a look at the enemy. Similar problems now hampered the British over Holland. After his glider malfunctioned on Sunday 17 September, as part of the first lift to Arnhem, Cain joined the second lift the following day but was delayed further by fog. This lost crucial time in an attack that was, by this point, no longer a surprise for the German forces.

Once safely landed and organised, the 2nd South Staffordshire advanced through the city of Arnhem. However the men soon found themselves surrounded by well-prepared German defences. Enemy marksmen seemingly picked off soldiers at will, while self-propelled guns and tanks blocked the route ahead and ceaseless shelling went on unchecked. Soon the streets were littered with dead soldiers, caught with nowhere to take cover and nothing to counter the armoured units.

In among the chaos, the battalion's commander was taken prisoner, along with hundreds of men under his command. Major Cain was barely able to escape with one company totalling just 100 men. Running out of ammunition and food, the British were forced to retreat back west, to the village of Oosterbeek, where a defensive n-shaped perimeter was being formed by the surviving units.

Command over the eastern sector's defence fell to Major Lonsdale, who was well aware of the importance of the line holding. His force was all that would stop the Germans from cutting the Allied army off from the Rhine, driving a wedge between them and any hope of relief or escape. Now the men gathered in the little Dutch church shoulder their weapons, snatch the final drags of their cigarettes and turn to face the pulpit above. "You know as well as I do there are a lot of bloody Germans coming at us," Lonsdale declares bluntly. "We must fight for our lives and stick together. We've fought the Germans before. They weren't good enough for us then, and they're bloody well not good enough for us now. They're up against the finest soldiers in the world [...] Make certain you dig in well and that your weapons and ammo are in good order. We are getting short of ammo, so when you shoot, you shoot to kill. Good luck to you all." Cain and his men went outside to take up their positions and wait for the German men and tanks that were rumbling down the road to meet them.

Praise for a hero

"How many more young men, how many more teenage soldiers might have died had he not fought so ferociously?"

Jeremy Clarkson, TV presenter and Major Cain's son-in-law

"I thought, he must be a very brave man to be knocked out and return to take up the same position, and still hit tanks. But he was still firing when we left"

Richard Long, Glider Pilot Regiment, witnessing Major Cain's return to the field

The aftermath

After nearly six days of successfully defending attacks, the Allied perimeter at Oosterbeck finally retreated across the Rhine on Monday 25 September. Over 101 German artillery pieces had pummelled the British lines, devastating the area so terribly that it became nicknamed Der Hexenkessel – the Witch's Cauldron – by German soldiers. On the march back to friendly territory, the major even found the time to shave, in order to look more like an officer. After the war, Cain returned to his native Isle of Man and his job in the oil industry. He never talked about his Victoria Cross, and his family only learnt of its existence as they sorted through his belongings after his death in 1974. Operation Market Garden stands as among the last and worst major defeats of the British Army. With the launch of the largest aerial assault ever known, commanders had been hopeful of bringing an early end to the war, but the operation was a failure and only 2,700 soldiers out of the original 10,600 who set out to Holland returned home alive.

01 Digging in around the perimeter

Major Cain and the remaining troops of the 2nd South Staffordshire regiment are positioned on the southeast corner of the British perimeter, under Major Lonsdale's command. Their sector is closest to the Rhine, facing the direction of Arnhem in the east, from where the army has been retreating. Until the previous day, soldiers from the 1st Airborne Division had still been fighting to hold the bridge at Arnhem, but their defeat means the full force of the German Panzer divisions will be directed at them. Wehrmacht troops and armour are bearing down on the British, and their efforts will be focused on the Lonsdale force. Major Cain and his men are positioned to the north of Oosterbeek's church, in trenches that cover open waste ground, as well as the roads to the east, which the Germans are sure to come down.

02 Contact with the enemy

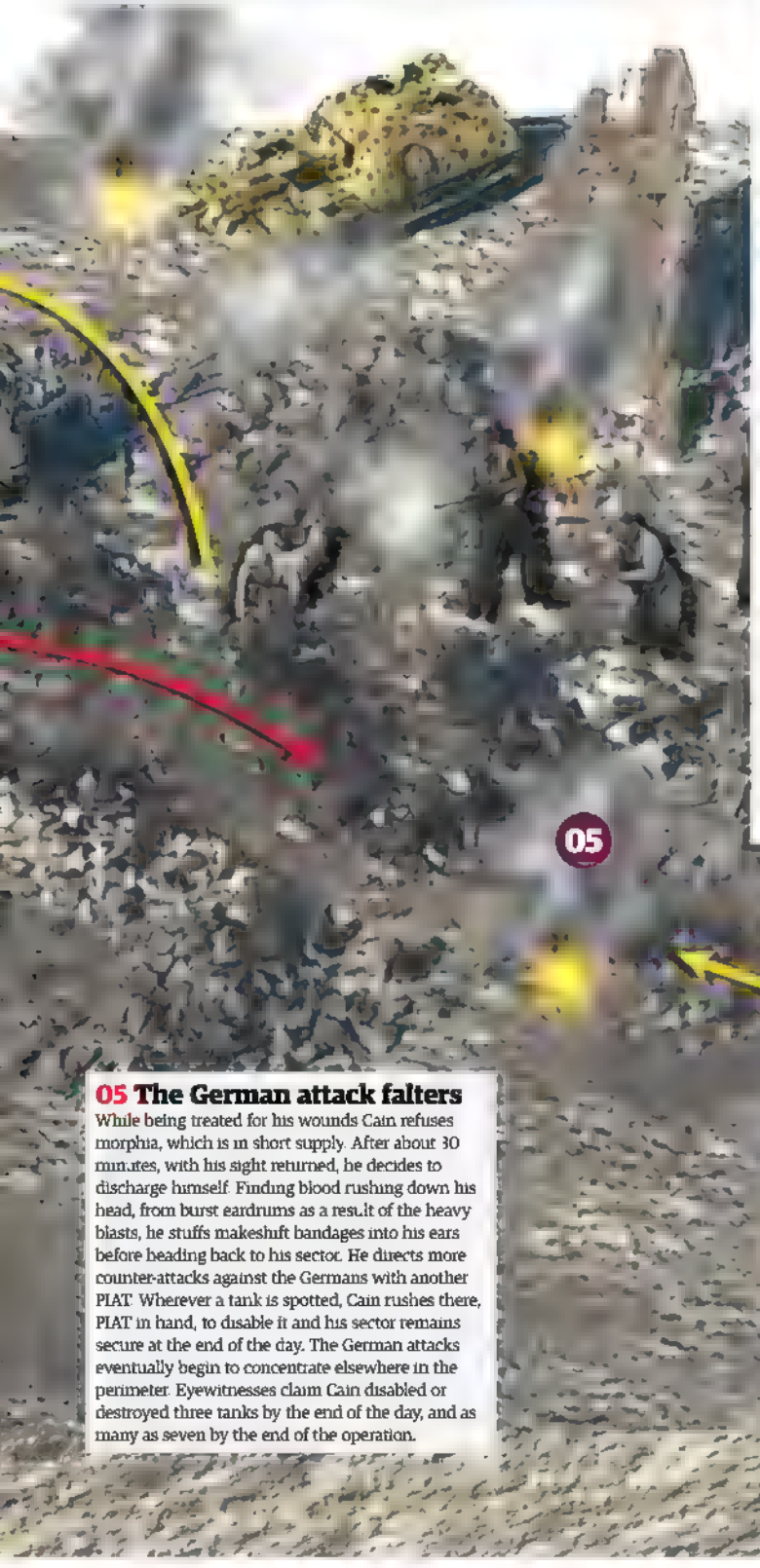
As Germans are spotted heading down the eastern road, Major Cain positions himself with a PIAT (projecting infantry anti-tank) gun, with Lieutenant Ian Mellke firing from the roof of a nearby house. He loads and fires at the first tank, but the blast leaves no damage. Alerted to the threat from Cain's PIAT, the German gunner turns his tank's 88mm barrel on the major. The blast from the shell obliterates the chimney Lieutenant Mellke is behind, killing him instantly and covering Cain in a curtain of falling debris. Cain waits in his position, continuing to fire on the tank until he is forced to take a new position out of the gun's sights. Not one of his shots penetrates the Tiger's 10cm (4in)-thick hull.

04 Major Cain is wounded

With another tank advancing down the road Cain takes up position behind the corner of a building. As he jumps out from cover and pulls the trigger, his PIAT's bomb misfires and detonates just feet in front of him, blowing him back. Seeing the blast, his men fear the worst and rush to his side. The explosion has completely blinded Cain, blackening his face, which is covered in tiny shrapnel shards from the blast, but he is alive. Shouting "like a hooligan" for someone to man the PIAT, Cain's men drag him from the field to be treated for his wounds. The tank is disabled with PIAT fire, before one of the 75mm guns from the 1st Light Regiment is brought forward to blow it apart completely.

03 Taking out the tanks

Repositioning to a nearby shed, Cain waits until the tank is less than 45m (150ft) away, then fires his PIAT. The shot explodes underneath the tank, but is ineffective and the German gunner turns his sights on the little shed. Seeing the turret's movement, Cain has just seconds to gather his weapon and flee the shed before it's blown to pieces. Sprinting through machine-gun fire back to the cover of a building, he lies prone, reloads his PIAT and fires at the tank two more times. This time his shots disable the metal beast by blowing off one of its tracks. Though this prevents it from moving down the road, the turret still blasts the British position with its fire. The tank's crew bail out and attempt to attack on foot, but are gunned down by Cain's men.



British paratroopers in Oosterbeek, from the same squads Major Cain was a part of

05

05 The German attack falters

While being treated for his wounds Cain refuses morphia, which is in short supply. After about 30 minutes, with his sight returned, he decides to discharge himself. Finding blood rushing down his head, from burst eardrums as a result of the heavy blasts, he stuffs makeshift bandages into his ears before heading back to his sector. He directs more counter-attacks against the Germans with another PIAT. Wherever a tank is spotted, Cain rushes there, PIAT in hand, to disable it and his sector remains secure at the end of the day. The German attacks eventually begin to concentrate elsewhere in the perimeter. Eyewitnesses claim Cain disabled or destroyed three tanks by the end of the day, and as many as seven by the end of the operation.

The Victoria Cross

What is it?

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military honour awarded to citizens in the Commonwealth and previously the British Empire. It is awarded for valour in the face of the enemy and can be given to anyone under military command.

Why and when was it introduced?

The award was introduced in 1856 by Queen Victoria to recognise bravery during the Crimean War (1853-1856), as there was no standardised system for recognising gallantry regardless of length of service or rank.

What does the medal look like?

The inscription on the VC is 'for valour' after Queen Victoria turned down the initial suggestion of 'For the brave', stating that all of her soldiers were brave.

How often has it been awarded?

Since its introduction the VC has been awarded 1,358 times, but only 14 times since the end of WWII.

© Corbis, Nicolle Fuller

Bluffer's Guide ENGLAND, 1215

The Magna Carta

What was it?

The Magna Carta was the first charter that placed limits on the monarch's power and protected the rights of the people by making the king adhere to certain legal procedures and renounce many of his traditional rights. It had a massive influence on constitutional law worldwide and became the basis for a host of constitutions, including that of the United States.

When was it?

Sealed on 15 June 1215, the charter was preceded by English King Henry I's Charter of Liberties in 1100. However, the Pope renounced the Magna Carta in August of 1215, deeming it 'unlawful and unjust.' After King John's son Henry III came into power the Magna Carta was reissued in 1225 and gained widespread support

Where was it signed?

King John didn't sign the Magna Carta; he sealed it with his Great Seal, a wax seal in a metal mould that was attached to documents to indicate the king's approval. The most likely location for the sealing was the water meadow at Runnymede, as it lay about mid-way between the barons' headquarters in Staines and the king's palace at Windsor

A memorial to the Magna Carta was erected in Runnymede, Surrey, in 1957

King John lost the duchy of Normandy after his defeat at the Battle of Bouvines

Why was it created?

King John had suffered a number of military defeats abroad, but still demanded men and money from the barons. He also fell out with the Church and the Pope banned all church services and excommunicated King John. The barons rebelled and the Magna Carta was created to end the dispute.

Is it still in use today?

Much of the Magna Carta dealt with very specific personal grievances, which are no longer relevant today. Out of the document's 63 clauses, only three are still valid. The first ensures the liberties of the English Church, the second confirms the rights of the cities of England, and the third is the famous 'free man' clause.

How many copies are there?

Numerous copies of the Magna Carta were penned by royal scribes to send to religious and legal figures, although it's impossible to ascertain just how many. Four versions of the charter still exist today, one is in Salisbury Cathedral, another in Lincoln Cathedral and the last two are in the British Library.

A baron's life

The barons of feudal England owned large amounts of land and answered only to the king. The king could demand payment from them for multiple reasons, such as the marriage of his eldest daughter and 'scutage' if they refused military service. King John pushed these privileges to breaking point. Robert Fitzwalter, the baron of Little Dunmow, Essex used his influence in London to gain support for the baron uprising.

Standing the test of time

The importance of the Magna Carta extends far past the 1215 and 1225 versions; it was used time and time again throughout the reigns of British monarchs. Edward I, II, III as well as Richard II, Charles I, James II and countless others all felt the direct effects of the charter upon their reigns.

There is still great debate over the true meaning of many of the clauses of the charter

A tricky read

Not only is the Magna Carta written in Medieval Latin, but the scribes who created copies of the document made many abbreviations of words in order to use less of the expensive parchment. There is also evidence that it was written with some haste and changed often so everyone's grievances could be met, making it a challenging and somewhat confusing read.

Key events

Charter of Liberties
1100
A precursor to the Magna Carta, binding King Henry I to laws for his treatment of individuals.

England interdicted
1208
After King John refuses to accept the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Innocent III suspends all church services in England.

Battle of Bouvines
27 July 1214
This battle ends the 1202-1214 Anglo-French War with a French victory and costs the barons their possessions in Normandy.

Demanding scutage
1215
John tries to regain his losses by demanding 40 shillings for every man the barons failed to provide for the war.

The barons rebel
1215
The angry barons band their forces together and march south, denouncing their allegiance to the king.

Key figures

King John
1166-1216
John's exploitation of the barons' money led to the creation of the Magna Carta.

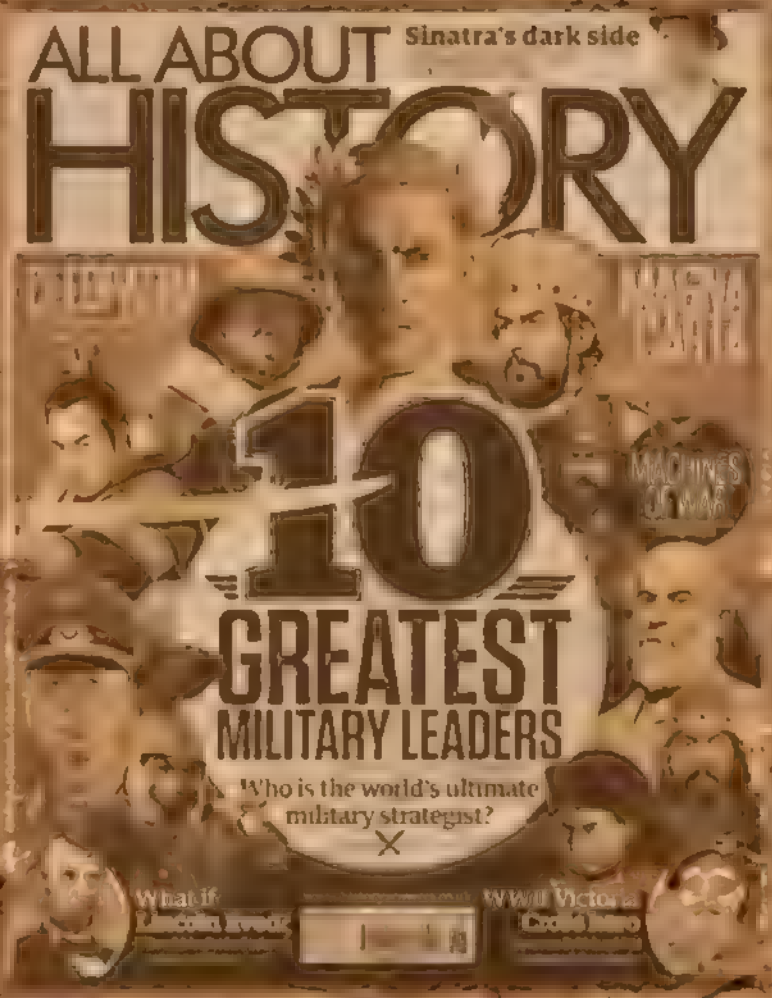
Pope Innocent III
1160-1216
The head of the Catholic Church, he ended all church services in England and cancelled the Magna Carta shortly after it was written.

Archbishop Stephen Langton
1150-1228
Archbishop Langton mediated between the warring forces and heavily influenced the contents of the charter.

William Marshal
1147-1219
Marshal ruled England until John's son came of age, and created two revised Magna Cartas in 1216 and 1217.

Robert Fitzwalter
Unknown-1235
Fitzwalter was the leader of the barons who rebelled against King John and one of the 25 sureties of the Magna Carta.

DISCOVER



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10 GREATEST MILITARY LEADERS

Written by James Hoare

Meet ten of the world's most incredible military strategists who could turn the tide of even the fiercest battle, no matter the odds

History can sometimes be reduced to a series of incredible individuals, whose reputation cuts through the fog of centuries like a searchlight. A great military commander is more than just a great warrior, though; a great commander will be brave and daring but also have the skill to calmly evaluate a battle to outmanoeuvre their opponents. These figures take centre stage in legend and national myth and their statues stand proudly outside palaces and parliament buildings, revered for all time.

The deeds that unite our greatest tacticians are an alchemical mix of great planning, bold tactics, an almost supernatural ability to second-guess the enemy and the confidence to make difficult decisions amid the thunder of battle. They are the commanders who claimed victory when defeat should have been the only option.

Some of these great commanders were seeking the glory of empire-building, like Alexander the Great, the Macedonian warrior king who terrorised the ancient world, and Napoleon Boneparte, the French emperor who shook up the entire balance of power in Europe. Other leaders were desperate defenders against overwhelming odds, such as Tran Hung Dao, the Vietnamese general who waged vicious guerrilla warfare to thwart a Mongol invasion, and Kwon Yul, the Korean commander who led a bloody last-ditch action against a huge samurai army. All of them changed the world with a single command; read on to discover the battles they won thanks to their brilliance – the ones that turned them from leaders to legends.

NAPOLEON

The Battle of Austerlitz

2 December 1805, Czech Republic

Three emperors duel for the future of Europe over frozen fields

On 21 October 1805 Admiral Horatio Nelson defeated the French fleet at Trafalgar, the invasion of Britain apparently defeated. A day earlier, the Armée dAngleterre near Calais had left camp, but they weren't marching to the English Channel. They were heading east. Britain had won at sea, but France had already lost interest. Aware of the threat being posed by Britain's allies, the Austrian Holy Roman Empire and the powerful Russian Empire, the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte marched his army east across the Rhine, taking Vienna and pressing on into Moravia, in what is now the Czech Republic.

With the Austrian armies shattered, the 28-year old Russian tsar Alexander took the lead and urged a counter-attack on the French flanks around the town of Austerlitz, which would open up a corridor to liberate Vienna. Napoleon was counting on it. Purposefully thinning the French ranks on the flank, at 8am on 2 December 1805 the Allies took the bait. Three columns of troops hit the smaller French force, but although fewer in number, they were battle-hardened veterans and the patchwork of vineyards, forests, villages and marshes made the Allied advance hard going.

Was it genius?
Austerlitz was the perfect example of Napoleon's sound strategy on both the battlefield and in politics – cutting down superior numbers and crippling his rivals on the continent.

Early victories in the cold winter light were quickly lost to French counter-attacks before being regained again. Little progress seemed to be made by either side, but this bloody ballet was being danced to Napoleon's tune and the Allies had gradually been committing more and more of their men to the brutal fighting. Watching from a hill above the battlefield, Napoleon ordered the steel jaws of the trap sprung. "One sharp blow and the war is over."

Under the sudden boom of the French artillery, Napoleon's heavy cavalry lanced right through the heart of the now-thinned Allied line and the panicked tsar fled. Continuing their thunderous advance, the French heavy cavalry swept down and encircled the enemy. The battle continued to rage bitterly over the frozen ground, but its outcome was decided - Napoleon had swept away the numerical advantage of the enemy, bogging them down in myriad smaller confrontations. Approximately 9,000 French troops had been killed or wounded, compared to 15,000 Russians and Austrians - and another 12,000 of the enemy captured. Tsar Alexander was found by his generals crying under a tree miles from the battlefield. "We are babies in the hands of a giant", wept the tsar.

French cavalry take up positions before the battle

Russian cavalry seize a French banner

1 THE ALLIES ATTACK
The combined Russian and Austrian force begins its advance, starting in the village of Tenitz and moving up the line. Despite briefly throwing the French back from Tenitz, the advance of the other Allied columns is slow and the French hold the line.

2 BATTLE FOR THE HIGH GROUND
With the Allied advance largely failing, the French push forward and secure the strategically vital Pratzen Heights. Tsar Alexander fails to recognise the significance and, seeing the French have come to a halt, withdraws his units from the high ground.

3 THE RUSSIANS FIGHT BACK
The tsar dispatches his brother, Grand Duke Constantine, with the elite Russian Imperial Guard to attack Pratzen Heights, taking a standard from the French. Napoleon sends his own heavy cavalry in and the Russians are defeated.

4 THE ALLIES RETREAT
With relatively little fighting along the road, the French now advance rapidly and after hard fighting the Russian forces start to retreat. Elsewhere on the battlefield, the Allies are forced to begin an ordered retreat, but with no pause in the fighting.

5 THE KILLING BLOW
With the battle still raging around Tenitz in the south and the rest of the Allies being forced back, French troops sweep toward the remaining enemy forces, catching them in a pincer movement. Allied troops panic and flee, with many drowning in the frozen ponds.

KEY: Infantry Cavalry Artillery

TRẦN HƯNG ĐẠO
The Battle of Bach Đang

Date unknown, 1288, Vietnam

The Mongol invasion of Vietnam ends at the point of the stake

By 1288, the rampant Mongol Horde had not only left Europe and Asia awash with blood, but had taken over China as the new Yuan Dynasty of Emperor Kublai Khan. Vietnam had seen off numerous Chinese invasions, and were determined that the Mongols wouldn't have any more success than the Chinese had.

Unable to meet the huge Mongol force of Prince Toghan directly in battle, Vietnamese general Trần Hưng Đạo led his small forces out of the vulnerable cities and waged a savage guerrilla campaign from deep within the jungle, launching night raids on Mongol positions and leading them into the mud where their devastating cavalry would get bogged down.

Eventually Toghan was forced to send for supplies, dispatching half his force up the Bach Đang river where they could sail back to China. Harried all the way by guerrillas, the combined Chinese and Mongol navy was confronted with a smaller force of Vietnamese boats. The Mongols gave chase to this apparently easy prey before they suddenly ran onto a bed of bamboo stakes tipped with iron spikes that lurked beneath the water. Planted by Trần Hưng Đạo, the low tide had made them deadly to all but the flat-bottomed Vietnamese boats.

With his enemy trapped – men as well as their vessels were caught on the savage stakes – Trần unleashed fireboats toward the helpless enemy while his archers on the banks of the river rained down flaming arrows. The defeat was total, and the Mongols' third attempted invasion of Vietnam would be their last.

Was it genius?
Trần Hưng Đạo not only invented modern guerrilla warfare as we know it, but took it to the water, proving that even the Mongol Horde had something to be afraid of.

1 THE AXIS FEINT
Italian infantry and artillery launch a massive attack on the northern portion of the Galaza Line, accompanied by a number of tanks from Rommel's Afrika Korps and the Italian XX Motorised Corps. To the south of all that, Rommel appears to be leading the remaining units northward.

2 ROMMEL JUMPS THE FENCE
Under the cover of night Rommel's combined Afrika Korps, the XX Motorised Corps and the 90th Light Afrika Division infantry all circle back and duck under the Galaza Line around the box at Bir Hacheim, hoping to catch the enemy unawares.

3 THE CHAIN IS SEVERED
While the French continue to fight at Bir Hacheim, Rommel moves north, hitting the British 1st Armoured Division. Despite some victories, lack of supplies force Rommel to pull back. Once resupplied, the Afrika Korps is able to link up with the Italian X Corps and the Sidi Muftah box is taken

4 THE BATTLE IS WON
Bir Hacheim continues to fight, but in the north the British commander concentrates on defences around Tobruk. Rommel sends forces north to the Knightsbridge box – a major communications hub – and east toward the Bir el Harmat box. Both are overrun, command is shattered and a retreat begins.

ROMMEL
The Battle of Gazala

26 May – 21 June 1942, Libya

The Desert Fox smashes Britain's tank army into the sand

The war in North Africa had turned into a stalemate. The British and their Allies, outnumbering the Germans and Italians in both manpower (110,000 men to 80,000) and horsepower (840 tanks to 560), were hunkered down behind the Gazala Line, an 80-kilometre (50-mile) network of 'boxes', defensive points with barb wire and land mines that stretched from the village of Ain el Gazala on the coast to the town of Bir Hakeim deep inland.

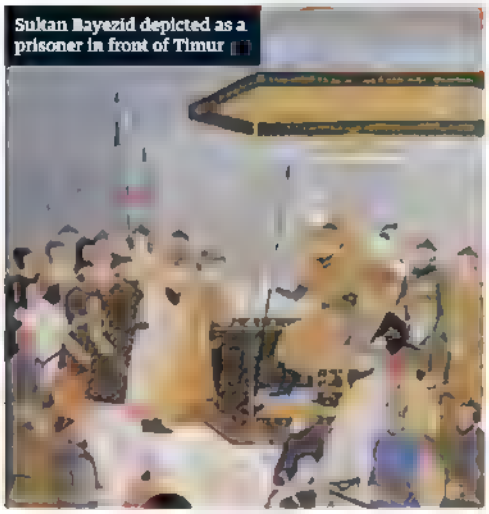
Colonel-General Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox', struck the north of the Galaza Line in the early hours of 26 May 1942, with Axis units heading north to join the main assault. Under the cover of night, those forces doubled back and, led by Rommel himself, swept under Bir Hakeim and hit the last box in the chain at 8.15am on 27 May. Fiercely defended by a Free French force that would hold out until 11 June, it looked like Rommel's gambit was unravelling. With a supply convoy arriving on 29 May though Rommel was able to push further up the line and smash into the box at Sidi Muftah from the west while an Italian force attacked from the east – Allied lines had been cut in two.

With the isolated Bir Hakeim box doomed and the Allies unable to send reinforcements, the British began to pull back to their base at Tobruk, some 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Gazala. That decision turned Rommel's victory from a possibility into a probability, allowing him to take the Knightsbridge box on 13 June and throw the Allied lines of communication into total chaos.

All chance of an organised defence collapsed and the surviving boxes eventually fell, with Tobruk joining them on 21 June. British armour in North Africa had been almost completely obliterated. "What difference does it make if you have two tanks to my one, when you spread them out and let me smash them in detail?" Rommel explained to a British POW as burning armour cooled in the breeze.

Was it genius?
It may have taken longer than he expected, but Rommel's plan unfolded perfectly. Seeing the weaknesses in the Gazala Line, he pulled the defences apart and rendered numerical superiority meaningless.

Australian troops prepare to defend Tobruk from Rommel's advance


Sultan Bayezid depicted as a prisoner in front of Timur

TIMUR
The Battle of Ankara

20 July 1402, Turkey

Genghis Khan's heir defeats the Ottomans with dirty tricks

Self proclaimed successor to Genghis Khan, Timur set about rebuilding his ancestor's empire from his heartland in what is now Kazakhstan. The expanding borders of 'the Sword of Islam' brought him into contact with the Ottoman Empire, so in 1402 Timur decided to strike against Sultan Bayezid just as he himself was laying siege to the waning Byzantine Empire's capital at Constantinople. Hearing of Timur's advance, Bayezid lifted the siege and turned his army east to meet Timur, but they missed each other. Timur's army arrived at Ankara so soon after the Ottomans had left that they took advantage of the vacated campsite.

As the enemy began marching back to Ankara across the hot Anatolia plateau, Timurid engineers dammed up the Curbuk creek. As the Ottoman forces arrived, thirsty and weary from their march, the Timurid army gathered on the banks of the stream. The first fresh water supply the Ottoman soldiers had seen for miles ran dry before them in what was a tactical masterstroke from Timur.

Despite their thirst, the Ottomans numbers almost overrun Timur's army and a devastating Ottoman cavalry charge threw their right flank back. But around midday, Ottoman strength began to deflate and the tide began to turn. With both armies made up of Turkic soldiers from Central Asia, many on the Ottoman side changed sides as Timur had the mountains surrounded to prevent escape for his vanquished foe.

Was it genius?
Timur may have been a Mongol Khan, but he was no barbarian and used engineering and cunning to overcome the Near East's mightiest empire.

PATTON
El Guettar

23 March - 3 April 1943, Tunisia

Patton redeems the US Army on the rocks of North Africa

Freshly posted to head the US II Corps in North Africa following the disastrous Battle of Kasserine Pass - a humiliating baptism of fire for the newly arrived American forces - Lieutenant-General George S Patton was determined to rescue the slightly bruised reputation of the US Army.

On 17 and 18 March 1943, the 1st Infantry Division and 1st Ranger Battalion took the town of El Guettar near the eastern dorsal of the jagged Atlas Mountains. Emboldened by their victory at Kasserine Pass, on 6am on 23 March, 50 German tanks from the 10th Panzer Division, accompanied by elite Panzergrenadiers, swept from their defensive positions in the mountain pass toward the US positions in the El Guettar valley.

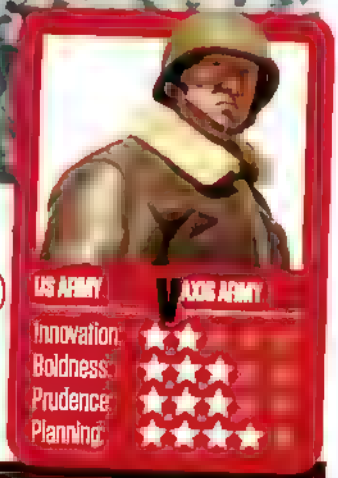
Quickly overrunning the US front lines, everything seemed to be going the way of the Führer's finest except one small but vital 'but' - the plan of attack had been intercepted by the Signal Corps six hours earlier, giving Patton time to prepare. The 10th Panzer Division found out the hard way as it rolled straight into a minefield. Then, with a thunderous boom, the heavy artillery and M10 tank destroyers hidden in the hills overlooking the road to El Guettar opened fire.

As the Nazis retreated, they left 30 of the 50 tanks behind them as ugly hunks of burning, twisted metal. US infantry had thrown back an assault from battle-hardened motorised regiments, the terror of Rommel's North African army and they'd made it look like a duck hunt.

Was it genius?
Though Patton built his myth on opportunistic dashes, El Guettar proved he could play a waiting game too, laying a trap so effective that it obliterated a battle-hardened Panzer division.

Pressing the advantage, Patton advanced into the mountains, smashing through the Axis defences on Hill 772 and turning their guns on Hill 369 when orders came in from the British line to secure Hill 772 - 16 kilometres (ten miles) further behind the lines. The larger campaign ended in a stalemate as the Allies ultimately failed to outflank the Axis line, but it was a triumph for Patton, who had proven the US Army a force to be reckoned with.

A US soldier hands out cigarettes to Italian prisoners in the aftermath of El Guettar



"With a thunderous boom, the heavy artillery and M10 tank destroyers hidden in the hills opened fire"

Three of history's most disastrous military commanders

General Robert Nivelle

Force commanded: French

Author of the poorly planned Nivelle Offensive in April and May 1917, Nivelle promised victory in 48 hours. The whole terrible plan had been leaked to the Germans in advance, and despite outnumbering the enemy two to one, 187,000 British and French troops were killed, wounded and captured with zero gains. The operation ended with the French army threatening to mutiny and Nivelle was sacked.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

Force commanded: Mexican

Despite his victory at the Alamo in 1836, almost everything the 'Napoleon of the West' touched turned to humiliation. One infamous battle lasted only 15 minutes and ended with his entire surviving force captured, including Santa Anna himself, who was found wearing a private's uniform and hiding in a marsh. His further misadventures included losing his leg and surrendering to the French in the Pastry War of 1838-9.

General Douglas MacArthur

Force commanded: USA

Despite a formidable reputation, MacArthur's thinking wasn't exactly guided by strategic imperatives. After the crushing US defeat in the Philippines in which he forbade his men from withdrawing (and then withdrew himself) in 1942, he worked to reclaim the island for the sake of his ego. The ensuing Battle of Leyte Gulf was the largest Naval campaign of WWII and resulted in the death of 2,800 Allied servicemen, but its strategic value is questionable.

JULIUS CAESAR

The Battle of Alesia

September 52 BCE, France

Gaul falls to Rome in Caesar's incredible double-siege

All that lay between Julius Caesar and glory was the great wooden hill fort of Alesia, the centre of resistance against the Roman invasion of what is now France. Not only did the defenders, led by the Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix, outnumber the Roman legions 80,000 to 60,000, but a relief force of around 100,000 more Gauls and assorted other Celtic tribes were on their way. His forces were seriously outnumbered.

The Romans quickly encircled the fort with their own wooden stockade 18 kilometres (11 miles) long, complete with pits and watchtowers. As the relief force camped nearby, Caesar ordered the construction of a second 21-kilometre (13-mile) long wall outside the first, facing outward with four cavalry posts. The Romans were preparing to be besieged while they themselves lay siege.

Inside Alesia, conditions grew steadily grimmer under the press of bodies and lack of food, so Vercingetorix had the women and children released, hoping that the Romans would allow them passage through the encircling defences and thus leave themselves vulnerable to a surprise attack. They didn't take the bait, so the helpless civilians were left to starve to death in the no-man's-land between the two stockades.

Attempts by the Gauls to break out were swiftly repulsed, but one attack on the weakest point in the Roman wall from both sides made Caesar realise that something had to be done and he led a 6,000-strong cavalry force to surprise the attacking relief force from the rear. Spurred on by Caesar's boldness, the Roman defenders on the inner wall held fast against the Gauls, who retreated from the sheer madness unfolding before them.

The double wall around Alesia wasn't a wall, it was a vice-like chokehold; the Gauls' only option left was to surrender rather than starve. The Roman conquest of Gaul was complete and would last in one form or another for 500 years. Back home, the Roman Republic's refusal to honour its greatest general's greatest victory swiftly led to a regime change. Rome was now an empire, and Julius Caesar, one of its greatest military leaders, would be its head.

Caesar's double-siege of Alesia is among the greatest battle tactics ever used

"The Romans quickly encircled the fort with their own wooden stockade 18 kilometres long, complete with pits and watchtowers"

Was it genius?
Nothing seems more Roman than conquest through construction, but at Alesia Caesar showed he could take risks too, with a split-second decision that sealed not only his victory, but his legacy.

Timeline

1. **THE GAULS STRIKE**
The Gaul relief force led by the chieftain Commius hits the external wall at the same time as Vercingetorix orders an attack on the inner wall. Successfuly repulsed, the Gauls attack again at night and Caesar is forced to withdraw his men from parts of the stockade.

2. **THE CAVALRY RETALIATES**
With the Roman defences imperilled by the night attack, Mark Antony and Gaius Trebonius ride out with cavalry and repulse the assault. Vercingetorix's forces are delayed by the trenches dug by the Romans in front of the inner wall and by the time these have been filled, the attack has been seen off.

3. **THE WEAK SPOT**
The Roman defences have only one obvious weak spot, a point where the two walls are forced together by the river and the hills. Vercingetorix's cousin Vercassivellaunos leads a massive attack from the outside, while the army from Alesia attack from the inside.

4. **CAESAR GAMBLES EVERYTHING**
With the Roman defenders faltering under the combined assault, Caesar saddles up and leads 6,000 horsemen into the rear of Vercassivellaunos' relief force. Despite superior numbers, they're panicked by the sudden cavalry charge and the assault crumbles.

Two great leaders meet – Vercingetorix would eventually lose to Caesar at Alesia

The Siege of Alesia saw the Romans' – and Caesar's – military cunning used to devastating effect

KWON YUL

The Siege of Haengju

27 February 1593, Korea

Korea's reluctant general takes the samurai to the river of hell

By early-1593, the Japanese samurai army of Toyotomi Hideyoshi had crushed almost all Korean resistance and looked poised to plough on into China – only one thing stood in his way: a hastily constructed wooden fortress a few hours' march from the occupied capital.

Inside this fort was 55-year-old civil-servant-turned-military-genius Kwon Yul, famous for defeating the Japanese in two earlier battles. Commanding only 2,300 troops, Kwon had been unable to halt the Japanese advance on Seoul, instead holing up on a hill above the Han River. With sheer cliffs either side, only the north was approachable, so he set about building a stockade of earth and logs with the men he had – some were warrior monks, but most were farmers.

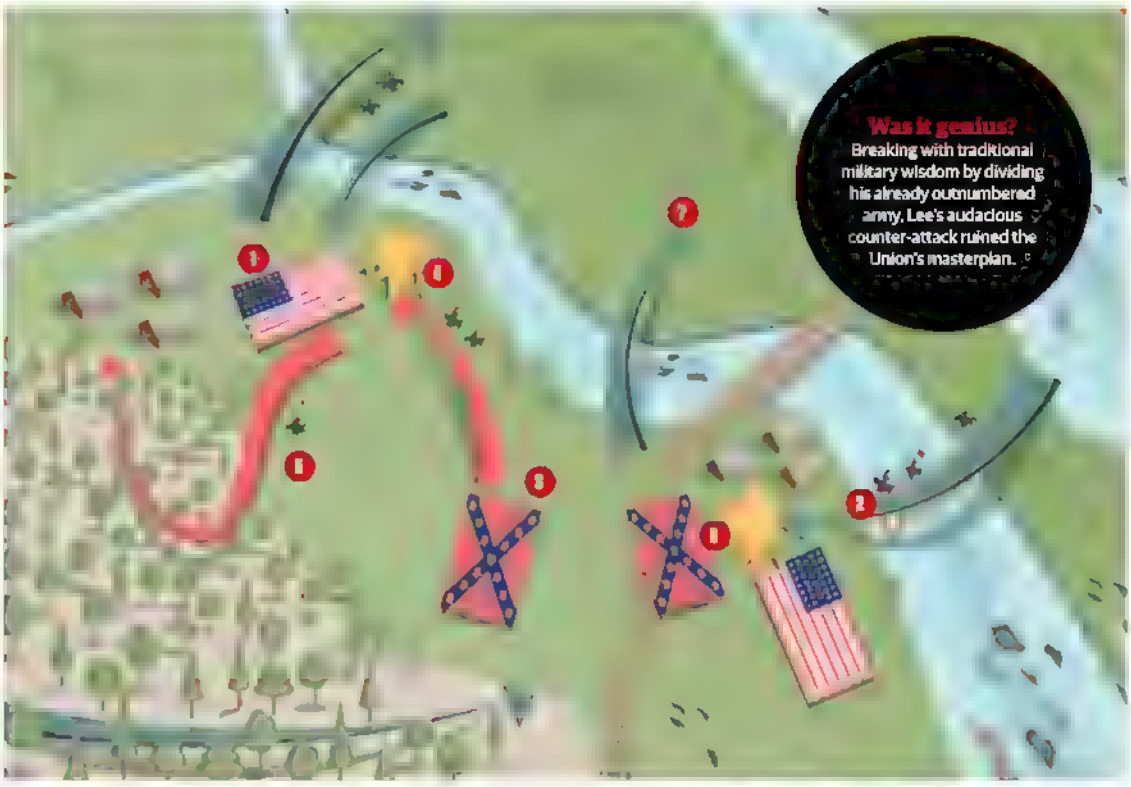
Needing to crush this resistance before they could move into China, over 40,000 Japanese soldiers clad in terrifying masked helmets and carrying fluttering red banners marched from Seoul. Their fearsome demeanour was in stark contrast to the poorly armed and largely untrained defenders, but Kwon Yul had chosen his battlefield well. Very well indeed.

> The steep incline to the fortress made the Japanese musket fire ineffective

The steep incline to the fortress made the Japanese musket fire ineffective, but multiplied the effect of the defenders' return fire, which they released in perfectly concentrated volleys in time with Kwon's drum beats, driving the Japanese back three times. The fourth time they made a breach in the outer wall, and the fifth time bloody hand-to-hand fighting took place in the inner wall. A seventh attack penetrated the inner wall, but by then it was too late. As the sun dipped toward the horizon, Japanese losses had been too great. As they set the bodies alight on the Han River, one Japanese general looked back and compared it to 'sanzu no kawa' – the river of hell.

Was it genius?

Kwon Yul took his limited resources and used his environment to win one of the most significant Korean victories of the Imjin War of 1592-1598.


Was it genius?
Breaking with tradtional military wisdom by dividing his already outnumbered army, Lee's audacious counter-attack ruined the Union's masterplan.

1 THE UNION SWINGS IT SCYTHE
As 10,000 cavalry under Major-General George Stoneman swoop around to the Confederate's rear, cutting off their supply lines, Major-General Joseph Hooker and 70,000 infantry cross the Rappanhannock River and take up positions at the small hamlet of Chancellorsville.

2 MARCH ON FREDERICKSBURG
After bridging the Rappanhannock south of Fredericksburg with pontoons, Major-General John Sedgwick and 40,000 men take up positions outside the town. Lee decides to confront the larger force head-on and leaves 11,000 men under Brigadier-General William Barksdale and Major-General Jubal A Early to hold the town.

3 FOG OF WAR
Taking advantage of the cover of heavy fog, Lee dispatches the bulk of the Confederate force – a total of 40,000 men – west under Lieutenant-General Stonewall Jackson and Major-General Richard H Anderson, where they begin digging in along the road to Chancellorsville.

4 STONEWALL STRIKES FIRST
Ordered to defend his position, Jackson advances instead and hits the Union forces hard in a clearing on the edge of the forest. Hooker, surprised by the sudden assault, retreats to Chancellorsville and takes up defensive positions around hastily constructed log barriers.

5 THE FOREST SIEGE
Lee divides his army once again, sending Jackson and 28,000 men to attack the Union's right flanks while Lee himself holds the road with 13,000 men. Only two cannons protect Hooker's right and the Confederates come screaming from the forest as the Union troops are sitting down to dinner. A series of Confederate assaults push Hooker further back.

6 THE TIDE TURNS – BRIEFLY
Back at Fredericksburg, Sedgwick finally advances, quickly breaking through the small number of defenders Lee has left behind. Despite their advance, they're eventually thrown back and unable to relieve Hooker's besieged Union force. With Hooker no longer a threat, Lee peels off some of his men to reinforce Major-General Early.

7 SEDGWICK IS TRAPPED
Robert Lee's reinforcements encircle Sedgwick, like Hooker before him and the general retreats back across the Rappanhannock over Banks's Ford. Hooker withdraws too, back across the ford he originally came in by. The Union had lost this battle.

ROBERT E LEE
The Battle of Chancellorsville

30 April - 6 May 1863, USA

The Confederate general turns an ambush back on itself

General Robert E Lee had proved himself the greatest Confederate commander of the American Civil War, and so the Union, smarting from their recent defeats, devised a plan to defeat their menace. Outnumbering the Confederates over two to one (the Union was fielding 133,868 men to the rebels' 60,892), the Union forces divided into two, leaving 30,000 troops at Fredericksburg while the bulk of the army – led by Major-General Hooker – crossed the Rappahannock fords on 30 April to attack Lee's vulnerable left flank.

With even the individual armies eclipsing his own entire force, Lee diminished his numbers even further by sending 30,000 men with Lieutenant-General 'Stonewall' Jackson on a three-kilometre (two-mile) loop to attack the right flank of the new force while Lee himself led 12,000 men to hold them head-on. The remainder of the force were to remain within sight of Fredericksburg to hold off the enemy that was still stationed there.

With the Union troops still in the dense woodland around the river where their artillery could yet come to bear, Jackson launched his surprise attack on 2 May. Taking 4,000 prisoners, Jackson's daring assault forced the enemy back three kilometres (two miles) toward the river, where they decided to form a defensive line around the small hamlet of Chancellorsville.

Back at Fredericksburg, Major-General Sedgewick disobeyed an order to advance on the 18,000-odd Confederate troops still facing him, believing his force of 30,000 to be outnumbered. With Sedgewick's blunder buying them time, on 3 May the Confederates hammered Hooker's line, forcing them back past Chancellorsville and toward the ford. Meanwhile, Sedgewick had finally begun to advance, but it was far too late. Hooker was now beaten, and Lee swung back toward Fredericksburg where the Union troops found themselves overwhelmed and defeated.

Weary Union troops rest at Chancellorsville

Confederate dead on the outskirts of Fredericksburg

DAVID IV
The Battle of Didgori

12 August 1121, Georgia

The Georgian king delivers one of the unsung victories of the Crusades

In the tense peace between the First and Second Crusades, a small Christian kingdom on the Seljuk Sultanate's northeastern edge caused concern among the Muslim kingdoms along the Mediterranean. As the Seljuk Turks spread into the Caucasus, Georgia's young king David IV married himself into the tribal Cuman-Kipchak people, settling them in his kingdom and converting them to Christianity. These formed the core of the new army which David used to launch raids into Seljuk territory as he refused to pay tribute to the Turks.

An incredible force of approximately 400,000 men marched toward Georgia to put the upstart Christian monarch in his place. Fielding only 55,600 men, David IV needed to seize the momentum. After blockading the road behind them with logs to ensure retreat wasn't an option, David IV split his army into two parts, quietly placing one force on the high ground near the Seljuk camp, while leading the other personally. Then he sent 200 of his cavalry to the camp to act as though they wished to defect.

Once the Turks had let them into the heart of their force and the generals were on hand to accept their surrender, the Georgian strike force suddenly lashed out, cutting down the Seljuk leaders and soldiers who had gathered to watch. Simultaneously, the force on the high ground charged down into the camp's unguarded flanks while David IV's force attacked from the front.

With their leaders slain and enemy cavalry and troops rampaging within their camp, the panicked Turks fled – the sheer size of the escaping foe taking the Georgians three days to hunt down and slaughter at their leisure. Armenian historian Mateos of Urfa recalled that: "terrible and savage slaughter of the enemy troops ensued and the corpses filled up the rivers and covered all valleys and cliffs."

> "David IV split his army into two parts, quietly placing one force on the high ground, while leading the other"

Was it genius?
David IV married political strategy with battlefield strategy, building an effective fighting force for a sudden and bloody victory that reduced overwhelming odds to nothing.

1 THE ENEMY ASSEMBLE
The forces of the Turkish Seljuk Empire march into Georgia from neighbouring Armenia. Largely made up of troops from local Islamic countries under the Seljuk umbrella and led by Ilghazi, a veteran of the Crusades and former governor of Baghdad, they set up camp in the Didgori valley.

2 DAVID SETS A TRAP
In a bold move, David IV splits his already outnumbered army, sending a small force under the command of his son Demetrius to hide in the nearby hills overlooking the Seljuk camp. Meanwhile, a smaller force is detached from the rest of the army, which remains under the control of the Georgian king.

3 THE BAIT IS TAKEN
The smaller force rides out to the Seljuk encampment, offering to defect. Well used to regional armies having second thoughts at the sight of a vast Turkish army, the Georgians are allowed into the heart of the camp to meet the army's commanders. There they suddenly attack, creating instant panic and chaos.

4 THE TRAP IS SPRUNG
While the Seljuk camp turns in on itself, Demetrius' forces attack the Seljuk flanks and David IV leads the rest of his army in a furious charge at the ill-prepared enemy. Leaving only one direction left for the enemy, they panic and flee the battlefield where they can be slaughtered by the pursuing Georgian cavalry.

The site of the battle is commemorated today with a set of memorials

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

The Battle of Issus

5 November 333 BCE, Turkey

The Persian Empire crumbles under the hammer of Ancient Greece

Before Alexander the Great, the last independent city states of Greece had been encircled holdouts against the might of the Persian Empire. After the great military leader they became the centre of an empire that stretched from the mountains of his Macedonian homeland to the sweltering jungles of northern India.

Before this though, Persian control over Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) had to be broken. It all hinged on the coast, where the powerful Persian fleet could still turn the tide against the Greeks. Persia's Emperor Darius III led the army himself with the intention of linking up with the navy around the Gulf of Issus. Alexander's force of 40,000 gathered on the banks on the Issus with the Mediterranean on their left and the jagged mountains of the Amanus on their right. Over 100,000 Persians spread out before them, the number and make-up of the rank and file troops purposefully obscured by a line of cavalry.

Greek archers advanced through the foothills on the right to pepper the Persian lines. Unable to simply sit idly under a needling rain of arrows, the Persian cavalry withdraw, exposing the ranks behind them. Now Alexander knew exactly what they planned – to focus their attack on the Greek left and prise them off the shoreline – and he reinforced the line in readiness for Darius's eventual assault.

The Persians may have had strength of numbers, but the tightly drilled Macedonian phalanx, a tank-like wall of spears and shields, kept them safely pinned down while Alexander led his shock troops on the right, scything into the weaker Persian left flank. The lightly armoured soldiers on the left crumbled under the hooves of the Greek cavalry's advance and Alexander swung his charge down the Persian lines, spooking Darius who fled on his gold chariot. With the emperor on the run, panic quickly spread through the army – fleeing infantry were even trampled by their own cavalry as the Greeks gave chase. The Persian Empire had lost Anatolia, soon it would lose its Babylonian heartland. Eventually it would lose everything – Alexander the Great made sure of that.

Was it genius?

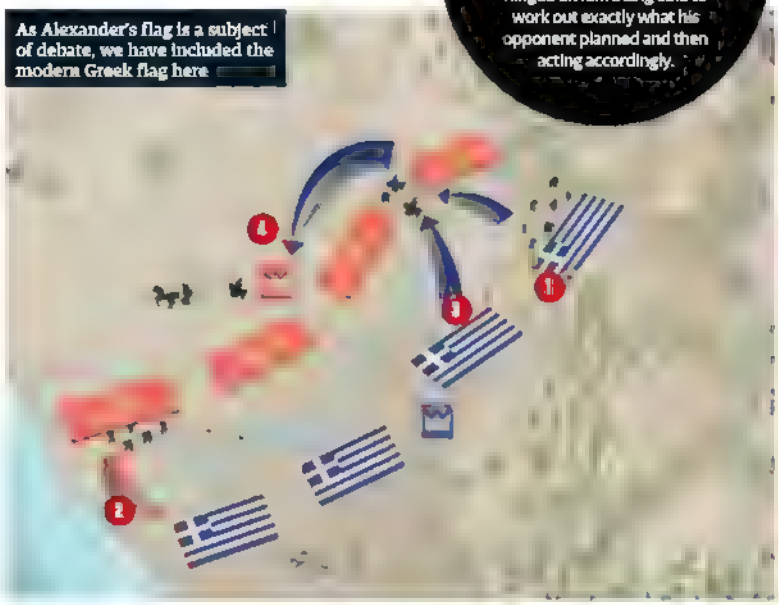
If Alexander had a signature move it would be holding down the enemy with his spear-tipped phalanx and then hitting their flanks, but at Issus its success hinged on him being able to work out exactly what his opponent planned and then acting accordingly.

1 PULLING DOWN THE CURTAIN
Greek skirmishers sneaking through the foothills goad the thin line of Persian cavalry with arrows. With their numbers whittling away under the scattered fire, they're forced to withdraw revealing the full Persian line-up to Alexander

2 THE PERSIAN HAMMER STRIKES
Aping Alexander's tactics for hammering the sides, the Persian heavy cavalry attacks the Greek flank to try and prise them from the coast. Reinforced by Alexander, the tightly drilled spear men of the Macedon phalanx hold the attackers off

3 ALEXANDER ATTACKS
Leading his fast-moving Hypaspists on foot, Alexander's versatile skirmishers charge across the riverbed and hit the Persian left flank, punching a hole through the enemy lines.

4 RIGHT IN THE HEART
Alexander saddles up and rides through the gap opened up by his elite Companion cavalry. They charge directly at the Persian emperor and Darius panics, fleeing the battlefield in his chariot and abandoning his troops.



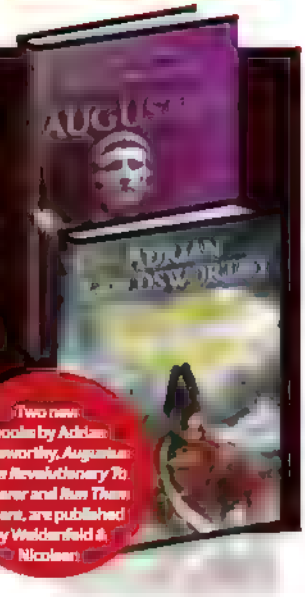
Expert opinion Adrian Goldsworthy

Who would be your pick for the greatest military strategist?
The Duke of Wellington, as he was always closely aware of the political context of every war and shaped policy and strategy accordingly. He made mistakes, but he never lost a war, even though he fought with limited resources. Having said that, similar things can be said about many others. The Romans used the ultimate criterion for success. The best general was the man who won the most battles – Julius Caesar in their case.

What do you think the key qualities are in a great tactician?
The ability to understand his own and the enemy's strengths and weaknesses and ensure that he can either negate the former – or exploit them to his own advantage as Hannibal did at Cannae – and make the most of the latter. The principle is very simple; putting it into practice is the hard part, especially when the enemy is trying to do the same thing. The tactics is one thing (to consider), but we should remember the organisation, training and preparation, leadership and sheer good luck needed.

Who do you think is underrated?
These days, even many people with an interest in military history often know little about the ancient world, so I cannot help naming a Roman. It would be easy to choose several, but I will plump for Scipio Africanus, who won Spain for the Romans, invaded Africa and ended the long, drawn-out carnage of the Second Punic War by beating Hannibal at Cannae. Scipio Africanus had never commanded an army before he arrived in Spain, and yet within a year he had captured New Carthage in a carefully executed, well-timed and very bold operation.

Who is overrated?
In some ways you could say Alexander the Great, who tends to be given the benefit of the doubt by modern historians, even though the fullest ancient sources for his campaigns date to four centuries after his death. He was certainly an incredible motivator of men, a skilled tactician and able strategist – and of course he kept on winning. Yet he failed to consolidate his conquests and his empire fragmented as soon as he died – which could easily have happened earlier given his recklessness in action.



Two new books by Adrian Goldsworthy, *Augustus: From Revolutionary To Emperor* and *Run Them Ashore*, are published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

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During his peak years, Frank Sinatra was one of the biggest entertainment stars in the world

My Way
Frank Sinatra's Dark Side

Rumours of Sinatra's Mafia connections dogged his entire career and the legendary crooner certainly had connections to made men...

Written by Owen Williams

In 1950 the US Senate convened a high-profile committee to investigate the growing problem of organised crime in America. Popularly known as the Kefauver Committee, after its chairman Senator Estes Kefauver, its findings included admissions of the FBI's failure to combat countrywide mob activity, leading to more than 70 local 'crime commissions' to combat the Mafia at local level, and a nationwide Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act. Unusually for the time, the proceedings were televised, with more than 30 million viewers eagerly tuning in to watch the testimonies of infamous gangsters: Mickey Cohen, Frank Costello, Jake 'Greasy Thumb' Guzik and others. Narrowly escaping a public grilling on this occasion was a struggling club singer called Frank Sinatra.

Council Joseph L Nellis questioned the singer in advance to determine his suitability for the stand, and the Kefauver Committee ultimately decided that no real purpose would be served by a Sinatra subpoena; his career was ailing at the time and the Committee generously opted not to finish him off by tarring him with the Mafia brush. However, during his questioning Sinatra nevertheless admitted to more than passing acquaintances with a significant list of made men: Lucky Luciano, Bugsy Siegel, Willie Moretti and Al Capone's cousins, The Fischetti Brothers.

Sinatra would not escape similar hearings in the future. While he always denied any Mafia involvement, his name kept cropping up. He was called before a Joint Senate-House Select Committee on Crime – along with his fellow Rat Pack performer Sammy Davis Jr – investigating gambling and corruption related to sport, in 1972. There was further public testimony, and further denials, in the hearings of the Nevada Gaming Control Board in 1981, where Sinatra was seeking to obtain a lucrative gambling license for his Las Vegas interests. They were never proven, but the whispers of Sinatra's intimate links to the mob were never silenced either. Was he really part of the Mafia? Or was he, as many have concluded, just a 'groupie', in love with the life but content to watch from the sidelines?

Possible Mafia ties stretch back to Sinatra's grandfather's youth in Sicily, the Italian island that was the birthplace of the Cosa Nostra. Frank's grandfather, Francesco Sinatra, was born

in 1857 in the hill town of Lercara Friddi; Mafia heartland only about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the famous town of Corleone. While there's no evidence that Francesco was involved in any dubious undertakings, he lived on the same street as the Luciano family, whose most famous son Salvatore – nicknamed Lucky – would come to be considered one of the fathers of organised crime in New York in years to come. Lucky's address book even contained the name of one of Francesco's in-laws, so it's entirely possible that Francesco and the Lucianos were personally acquainted.

Francesco Sinatra emigrated to New York in 1900 with his wife and five children. The young Antonino, Frank's father, became an apprentice shoemaker, but also worked as a chauffeur and a professional bantamweight boxer. He had run-ins with the law involving a hit-and-run accident – for which he narrowly escaped a manslaughter conviction – and for receiving stolen goods. He married Frank's mother Dolly in 1913, and Frank himself was born, an only child, two years later.

Dolly was a midwife, known to some as Hatpin Dolly due to her notoriety for performing illegal backstreet abortions, for which she was convicted twice. But she was also heavily involved in local Hoboken and Jersey City politics, working for two successive mayors at a time when the boroughs were infamous for corruption. When she and Antonino opened a bar in 1917, she became well known for bouncing drunks on the streets with her ever-present billy club.

The bar was the environment in which the young Frank Sinatra grew up, at a time when selling alcohol was illegal thanks to USA's Prohibition laws and, specifically, the Volstead Act. Frank would be doing his homework in the evenings in the corner of an establishment that could only remain in business thanks to his father's bootlegging activities with the local gangster Waxey Gordon, who in turn was connected to Lucky Luciano. Hoboken, as a port town, was a major transit point for illicit alcohol shipments and Frank's uncles, Dolly's

"The bar was the environment in which the young Frank Sinatra grew up, at a time when selling alcohol was illegal"

SINATRA'S RAP SHEET

Crime: Street fights
Sinatra was a skinny child known for his singing and his closeness to his mother, but he claimed in later life that he saw plenty of delinquent juvenile action. His teeth, he said, were straightened not by a dentist but in a punch-up, and the scar above his nose was from a Coke bottle smashed in his face.

Verdict? Sinatra fed the experiences into his personal mythology: a tough kid who grew up on the mean streets.

Crime: Bootlegging
The Sinatras ran a bar during Prohibition, so naturally there was plenty of illegal activity keeping them in business. Frank grew up among gangsters and bootleggers. It's hard to imagine that Frank, right in the middle of it all, didn't help out his father and uncles with liquor runs on at least some occasions.

Verdict? His family had run-ins with the law, but Frank was never implicated and the bar business remained a roaring success.

Crime: Adultery
In 1938, before Sinatra became famous, he was caught in a compromising position with a married woman – never publicly identified – in north New Jersey. This might not seem very surprising given his reputation as a womaniser, but back then adultery was illegal, so it was a serious business.

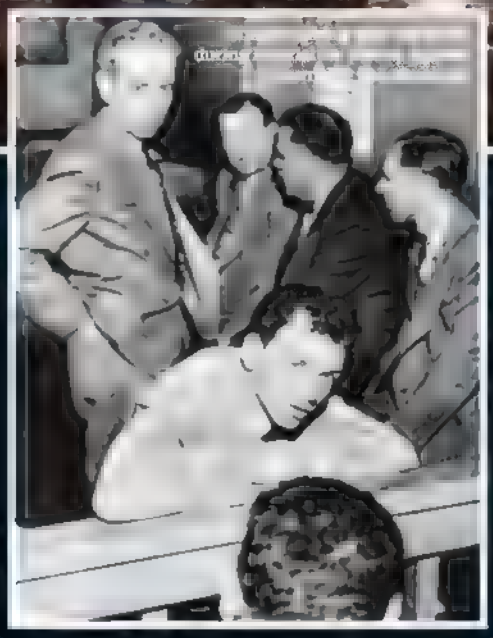
Verdict? He escaped a $500 fine when the charges were dropped, but still had to pose for a mugshot.

Crime: Dodging the draft
Sinatra avoided having to join the US armed forces during the Second World War, and a persistent rumour suggested that he'd paid a $40,000 bribe to doctors in New Jersey to be declared unfit for service. While his peers went and fought for the Allies in Europe and Asia, he remained at home living the decadent high life of a superstar.

Verdict? FBI files released in 1998 revealed that Sinatra had been legitimately rejected due to a perforated eardrum and 'mental instability', but the myth still prevails among some.

Crime: Assault
In 1947, while having dinner at Ciro's in Los Angeles, Sinatra allegedly punched newspaper columnist Lee Mortimer. It was reported at the time that, as Sinatra walked past his table, Mortimer made a reference to his Italian ancestry and his links with the Mafia, receiving a punch on the jaw for his troubles.

Verdict? Sinatra had to go to court where he pleaded not guilty and was released on bail. The charges were dropped before the trial when, it was reported, Sinatra paid $9,000 to settle. Rumours of him using his fists to end disputes followed him throughout his career.



brothers, were also heavily embroiled in the trade. Prohibition, perversely, was big business if you were on the wrong side of the law. It was the making of the Mafia in the United States. Frank's upbringing certainly wasn't wracked with hardship: his family rode out the Great Depression of the 1930s to the extent that Dolly bought him a brand-new car for his 15th birthday.

Despite his constant exposure to mob activities, Frank seized on a different 'racket' very early in life. He gave his first public performances singing along to the player piano in the Sinatra Bar and Grill, at the age of about eight. Misty-eyed tough guys would give him pocket money for his renditions of sentimental popular songs of the day, and a future star was born. His first professional break as a singer came in 1935 when he was 20, as a member of local singing group The Hoboken Four (they were a trio until Dolly leaned on them to let Frank join). This led to years of singing in clubs and bars in New York and around the country; an occupation in which fraternising with mobsters and their bosses would have been completely unavoidable. Organised crime went hand-in-hand with the bar business, and even after Prohibition ended, the mob remained silent partners in many businesses. They were also heavily involved in the music industry, controlling most of the jukeboxes nationwide, and therefore dictating what records would be successful.

"Saloons are not run by the Christian Brotherhood", Sinatra *hedged* in later life. "A lot of guys were around that had come out of Prohibition and ran pretty good saloons. I worked in places that were open. They paid. They came backstage. They said hello. They offered you a drink. If Saint Francis of Assisi was a singer and worked in saloons he'd have met the same guys. That doesn't make him part of something..."

Sinatra enjoyed a very good year in 1939 – he had a contract with bandleader Tommy Dorsey, a hot enough act for Sinatra's national profile to be hugely increased. In his first year with Dorsey, Sinatra recorded more than 40 songs and topped the charts for two solid months with *I'll Never Smile Again*. But Sinatra's relationship with Dorsey was a troubled one, and their parting in 1942 began the first public rumblings of Sinatra's possible Mafia connections.

With his profile on the increase, Sinatra was keen to go solo, but Dorsey refused to release him from a contract that still had years to run. This put Frank in a difficult position; he was being well-

President John F Kennedy at an event at Rice University

JFK: Sinatra's crush

John F Kennedy and Frank Sinatra first met at a Democratic Party rally in 1955. They immediately hit it off and became firm friends both on the golf course and in the hostelries of society nightlife, where Sinatra was known to occasionally set Kennedy up with some extra-marital female companionship.

Sinatra was even involved in Kennedy's run for the US presidency, and as always, the Mafia weren't far from the story. Kennedy's father Joseph was afraid to use his own Mafia links to help his son's campaign, so allegedly asked John's new best friend to be an intermediary. Sinatra was more than happy to oblige, so he helped to convince mob boss Sam Giancana to employ 'persuasive methods' to deliver Illinois and West Virginia to Kennedy's cause in the Democratic primaries before the election.

The plan paid off, but once JFK was president he soon began to distance himself from Sinatra, realising that it would be unwise for a president to risk mob scandal. The final straw for Sinatra was when Kennedy snubbed him at his Palm Springs home, opting to stay with Bing Crosby instead. The bitter Sinatra, who had invested in lavish decorations and a helipad specifically for the visit, was so upset that he went around his house smashing his treasured Kennedy souvenirs with an axe. A long-standing Democrat, Sinatra switched his allegiance to the Republicans in later years.

The Rat Pack

The name 'Rat Pack' was first given to a group of New York celebrities in the 1950s centred around Humphrey Bogart, later appended to the peer group around Frank Sinatra. The group never referred to themselves by that moniker, preferring the Summit or the Clan. They played together on stage and on film for years, usually crashing one another's gigs rather than performing as a formal group.

1 Frank Sinatra, singer/actor
Greatest hits: *My Way, Strangers in the Night, It was a Very Good Year, I've Got You Under My Skin, The Lady Is a Tramp, Fly Me To the Moon, New York New York*
Worst moment: Attempted suicide in 1951.
Did you know? He was replaced by Clint Eastwood in *Dirty Harry* after an injury forced him to pull out, and turned down Charles Bronson's role in *Death Wish*.

2 Dean Martin, singer/actor
Greatest hits: *Everybody Loves Somebody, Memories Are Made of This, That's Amore, You Belong To Me, Ain't That a Kick in the Head?*
Worst moment: Walking off the Together Again tour in 1988, leading to a late-life estrangement from Sinatra. Martin didn't like playing stadiums.
Did you know? Drunkenness was part of the reputation he cultivated, but the 'booze' he drank on stage was often nothing more than apple juice.

3 Sammy Davis Jr, singer/dancer/actor
Greatest hits: *What Kind of Fool Am I?, Candy Man, I've Gotta Be Me*
Worst moment: The car accident that injured him and cost him an eye in 1954.
Did you know? Davis was a significant financial supporter of the American Civil Rights movement, but suffered racist jokes and bullying from his Rat Pack colleagues.

4 Joey Bishop, actor/comedian
Greatest hits: *The Thin Man* (TV), *Easter Parade, Ocean's Eleven* (film)
Worst moment: His 1960s talk show *The Joey Bishop Show* lasted only two years, battered in the ratings by Johnny Carson's famous *Tonight Show*.
Did you know? Bishop was the last surviving member of the Rat Pack; he died in 2007

5 Peter Lawford, actor/producer
Greatest hits: *The Thin Man* (TV), *Easter Parade, Ocean's Eleven* (film)
Worst moment: Falling out with Sinatra in 1963, as Sinatra believed he had failed to intercede using his family connections when Kennedy opted not to stay at Sinatra's house. Lawford never worked with the Rat Pack again.
Did you know? Lawford married Patricia Kennedy, making him John F Kennedy's brother-in-law.

paid but his career was not his own. If he broke his contract he would owe considerable chunks of his income to Dorsey for the next decade: a clause Sinatra naturally found unsavoury. Lawyers desperately searched in vain for any loopholes in the deal that would allow Sinatra to walk free, and it looked like Dorsey would keep his biggest star. However, he was quickly persuaded to change his mind. Sinatra always denied it, but Dorsey's version of the story was that he found himself visited by Willie Moretti and two sharp-suited henchmen. "Willie fingered a gun and told me he was glad to hear I was letting Frank out of our deal", Dorsey recalled. "I took the hint."

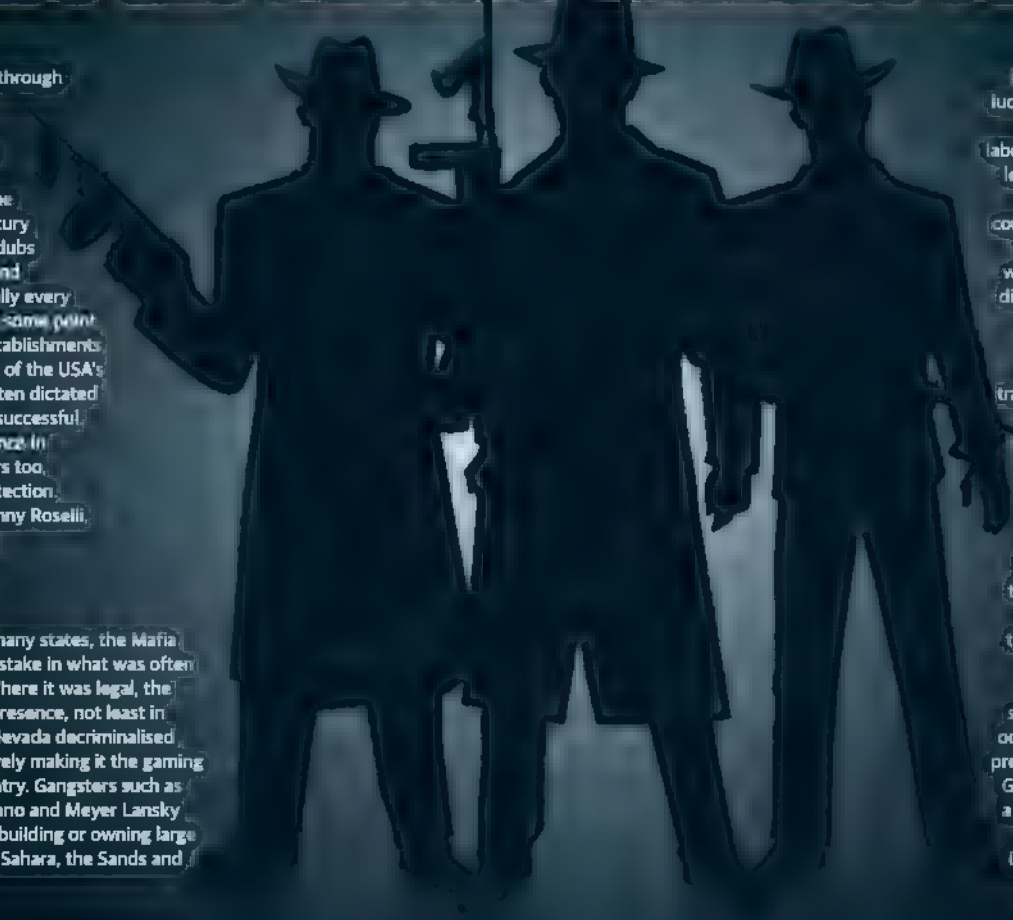
The young crooner made the most of his opportunity and the next few years saw 'Sinatramania' grip the US, as the singer recorded hit after hit, played to sell-out crowds, caused near-riots wherever he went, became a ubiquitous presence on television and launched a film career. There was also resentment, though, as with the advent of World War II, he somehow avoided military service. Rumours were rife that he had paid his way out of the war – although the FBI never found any evidence of this – while other sources suggest he was deemed unfit on psychological grounds and because of a perforated eardrum. Whatever the reason, pictures of him at home, cigarette in one hand and drink in the other, surrounded by beautiful women and living the superstar lifestyle, did not endear him to those in uniform and their families.

> "Misty-eyed tough guys would give him pocket money for his renditions of sentimental popular songs of the day"

However, that controversy was a drop in the ocean compared to the furore that erupted when Sinatra was photographed in Cuba in 1947 at a mob celebration for Lucky Luciano's release from jail. The incriminating pictures showed Sinatra with his arm around Luciano on a hotel balcony, with Luciano at a Havana nightclub, and with the Fischetti Brothers at the airport, disembarking a plane with a case in hand. Why would he have been carrying his own luggage? Comedian and movie star Jerry Lewis (the former partner of Rat Pack lieutenant Dean Martin) later alleged that Sinatra used to carry money for the mob. Sinatra claimed the case was full of art supplies, and that he couldn't have physically carried the $2 million he was accused of trafficking out of the US. Journalist Norman Mailer quickly established that considerably more than $2m fits easily in an attaché, debunking 'Old Blue Eyes' argument.

If there was doubt about what was in the case, Sinatra's presence at the mob shindig was inarguable. Sinatra was close to Joe Fiscetti, who was a talent agent for mob-owned clubs all over the US, and had agreed to the impromptu Havana trip while holidaying with his wife Nancy across the water in Miami. Once in Cuba, Sinatra claimed, he learned the embarrassing truth that he was ensconced at a Mafia convention, and reasoned it would be impolite – not to say dangerous – to make excuses and leave. He stayed and performed for the goodfellas, but several witnesses confirmed that he displayed little reserve in accepting the mob's hospitality, which included hotel-room orgies with 'planeloads' of call girls. It was as if Sinatra felt right at home, and many of his Havana acquaintances would remain with him during his later Las Vegas years.

Where the Mafia's tentacles reached



Showbiz

With the money flowing through USA's show-business industry it was inevitable that the Mafia would be interested in owning a piece of it. In the first half of the 20th century their ownership of nightclubs in places like Las Vegas and New York meant practically every famous name in music at some point played in mob-owned establishments and their control of most of the USA's jukeboxes meant they often dictated which records would be successful. They maintained a presence in Hollywood for some years too, extorting studios for protection. Some mobsters, like Johnny Roselli, even became producers.

Gambling

With gambling illegal in many states, the Mafia obviously owned a large stake in what was often a clandestine industry. Where it was legal, the Mafia still maintained a presence, not least in Las Vegas. The state of Nevada decriminalised gambling in 1931, effectively making it the gaming capital of the whole country. Gangsters such as Bugsy Siegel, Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky rushed to cash in, either building or owning large stakes in casinos like the Sahara, the Sands and the Flamingo.

Industry

One of the American Mafia's most lucrative schemes was its infiltration and eventual swallowing of the labour unions. For many years, union leaders were habitually threatened and paid off, meaning the Mafia could essentially control entire work forces, slowing down or stopping work if developers and contractors didn't toe their line. At their height, the Mafia could have completely halted construction and shipping under way in the US. This is why trade unions, which exist to protect workers' rights, are to this day regarded with such suspicion and hostility in the USA.

Politics

If the Mafia could control the law, they had an easier time getting on with their business. Payoffs and threats achieved results within the US (and Italian) political systems as they did in all other areas of society. In fact the mob have even occasionally involved themselves in presidential elections. Gangster Sam Giancana is thought to have played a large part in delivering significant seats in West Virginia during the Democratic campaign for eventual president John F Kennedy.

Sinatra's wise guy friends

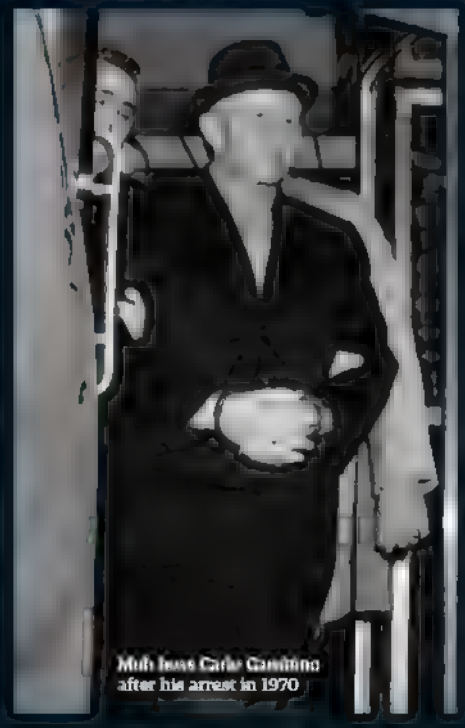
Willie Moretti was the underboss of the Genovese crime family, and cousin of its boss Frank Costello. He was Sinatra's godfather (in the christening sense) and helped the young Frank to get out of his restrictive early contract with bandleader Tommy Dorsey.

Joe Fischetti (or 'Joe Fish') was a long-standing friend, chaperone and bodyguard of Sinatra's. Joe and his brothers Rocco and Charles, with whom Sinatra was also well acquainted, were mobsters with the Chicago Outfit, and cousins to the legendary gangster Al Capone.

Lucky Luciano was the first official boss of the Genovese family, and unofficially the godfather of the entire New York Mafia, responsible for splitting New York into the famous Five Families. Sinatra was photographed at Luciano's prison-release party in Cuba in 1947.

Johnny Roselli ('Handsome Johnny') was a gangster for the Chicago mob. He became particularly active in Hollywood where he ran extortion rackets and gambling operations. He strong-armed Columbia Studios head Harry Cohn into giving Sinatra his Oscar-winning role in *From Here To Eternity*, and was even a Hollywood film producer himself for a time!

Carlo Gambino was the boss of the incredibly successful Gambino family. Along with Luciano, he was instrumental in setting up the Five Families, and particularly in replacing the "boss of bosses" with a more democratic "Commission" of the five family heads. Sinatra was photographed with his arm around him after a concert in 1976.



Mob boss Carlo Gambino after his arrest in 1970

Sinatra (second from left) posing with a group of reputed mobsters

"When Mafia fortunes were being invested in making Las Vegas the gambling capital of the world, Sinatra was an important pawn in their game"

Before the glittering lights of Vegas and the Rat Pack years, though, came the doldrums, as Sinatra's star began to wane in the US, outshone by younger up-and-comers like teen heartthrob Eddie Fisher. Sinatra, now in his thirties, failed to launch the successful television career he'd hoped for, and actually attempted suicide in 1951. But he achieved one of the greatest comebacks of all time when he landed a role in the 1953 movie *From Here To Eternity*, for which he won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for playing Angelo Maggio, a down on his luck Italo-American GI. Once again, evidence suggests he didn't achieve that success entirely on merit. The head of Columbia Studios, Harry Cohn, had been adamant that Sinatra would not be cast in the film, until a phone call from gangster Johnny Roselli persuaded him it was in his best interests after all. The alleged episode was the inspiration for Mario Puzo in his novel *The Godfather*, for the part in which studio head Jack Woltz is terrorised into casting Johnny Fontane in his movie by a horse's head being left in his bed. Roselli's display of power was less overt but, it is alleged, just as impactful.

Having helped Sinatra revive his career, it was unlikely that the mob would let him out of their clutches. FBI director J Edgar Hoover famously described Sinatra as having a "hoodlum complex", and it's clear that he relished the dark glamour of associating with gangsters and criminals. The reality though was that he was as much in thrall to the Mafia as he would have been to Tommy Dorsey if he'd failed to break his contract all those years ago. When they asked him for free performances in support of one of their causes he would jump to oblige, and in 1961 when Mafia fortunes were being invested in making Las Vegas the gambling capital of the world, Sinatra was an important pawn in their game. If Vegas was to attract visitors, it needed a roster of star attractions and performers. Sinatra was to be a regular fixture at the mob-run Sands Hotel and Casino, in return for a two per cent stake in the operation. This was big business.

The Sands became his home away from home until the late-1960s, and in the mid-1970s another incriminating photograph would haunt him through the media: he was snapped backstage at the mob-built Westchester Premier Theatre in New York, with his arm around crime boss Carlo Gambino. The FBI kept a file open on Sinatra for five decades until his death in 1998.

Sinatra dressed like a gangster, talked like a gangster, behaved like a gangster, grew up around gangsters and fraternised with gangsters. Perhaps the greatest irony is that he was never actually a made man. His relationship with the mob was clearly beneficial to both sides: Sinatra got fame and fortune and the mob had a tame star who could be used to boost their coffers and shore up their investments when necessary. If Sinatra was instrumental in establishing Las Vegas, Las Vegas was equally important in his 1950s comeback, but while the singer was clearly starstruck by the mob, it's unclear whether the mob was similarly dazzled, or simply saw Sinatra as expedient as long as he behaved. "I'd rather be a don for the Mafia than president of the United States," is a quote often attributed to the singer. If that's true, it seems that he never really got His Way after all.

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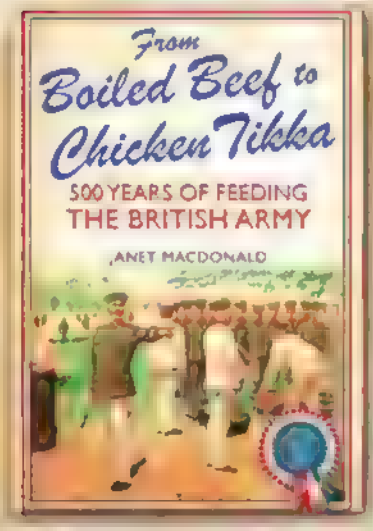

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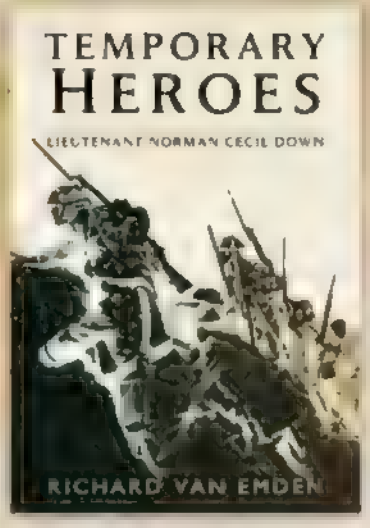

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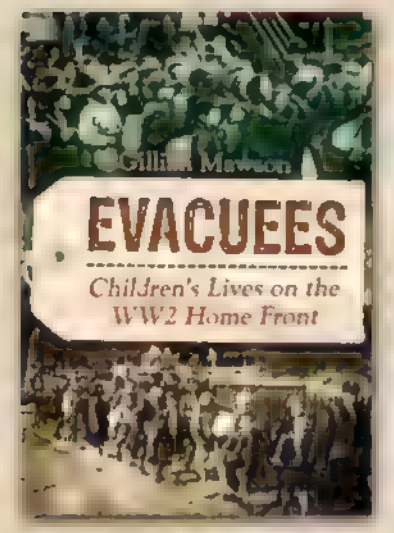

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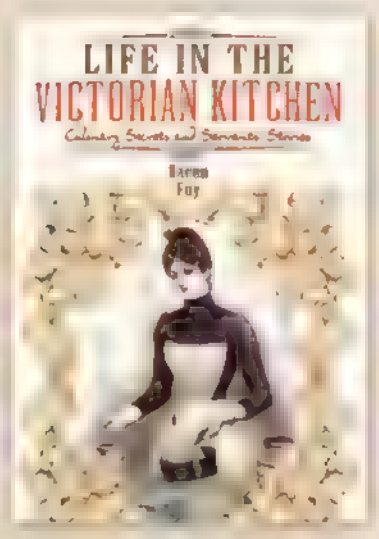

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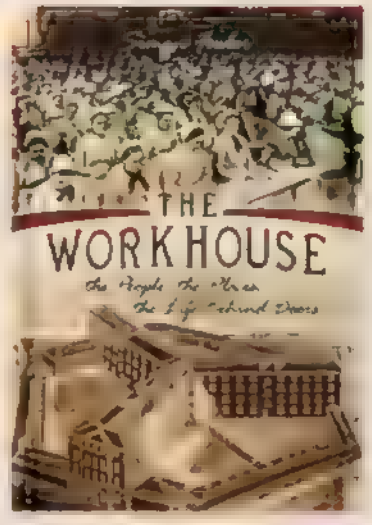

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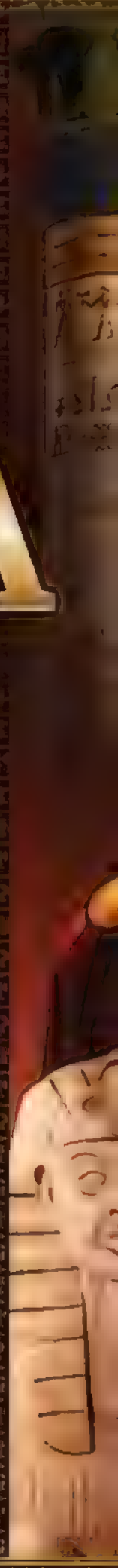
THE RUTHLESS RISE TO POWER OF CLEOPATRA

How the middle daughter of a despised pharaoh fought, schemed and seduced her way into becoming the most famous Egyptian ruler of all



Written by Frances White

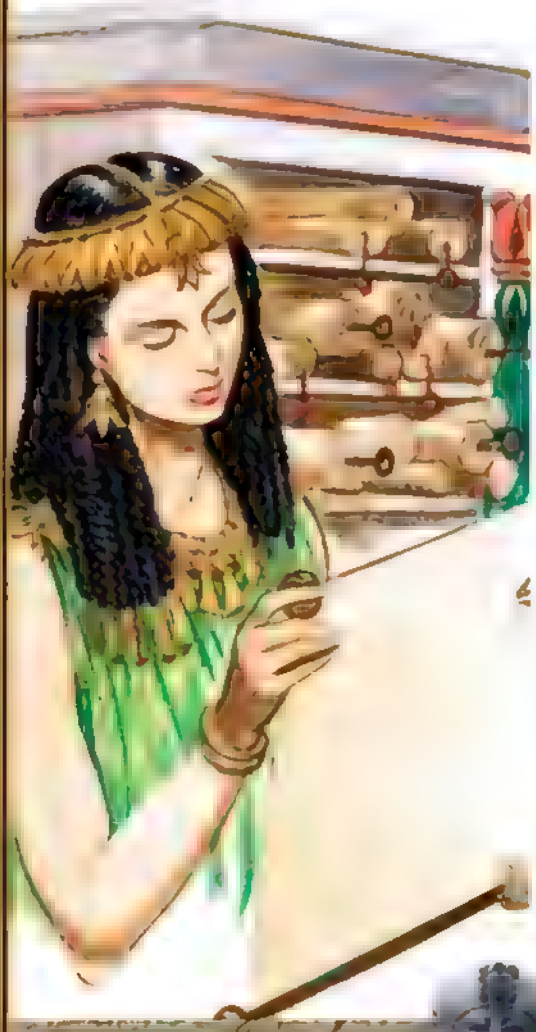
Egypt was in turmoil. In the year 81 BCE Ptolemy IX, the pharaoh who had dared to melt down the gold coffin of Alexander the Great was dead. A series of bloody and violent family feuds had robbed his dynasty of any legitimate male heirs so his popular and beloved daughter, Bernice III became queen. Following the family tradition, she married her half-brother, Ptolemy XI, but just 19 days after the ceremony, the groom had his new bride murdered and claimed the throne as his own. The citizens of Alexandria were furious and an angry mob quickly seized the new pharaoh and lynched him. Egypt was leaderless and seemingly out of control.

As the commander of the army and the personification of god on Earth, a pharaoh's presence was essential to prevent mass unrest in Egypt and anyone, absolutely anyone, was better than no pharaoh at all. So the throne was offered to the illegitimate sons of Ptolemy IX, and Ptolemy XII stepped forward to claim it. A notorious womanizer with a fondness for drink and excess, he was hardly the shining beacon the struggling country needed to guide it through the dark pit it had fallen into. A nickname for the illegitimate pharaoh quickly became popular – Nothos, or 'the bastard.' Ptolemy XII had at least five legitimate children, and Cleopatra VII was the second oldest after her sister, Berenice IV.

The young princess was clever and quick-witted, with an eager and curious mind driven by a near-insatiable thirst for knowledge. She easily excelled at her studies and even her esteemed scholars were amazed by her aptitude for languages, readily conversing with any foreign visitors whether they were Ethiopians, Hebrews, Troglodytes, Arabs, Syrians, Medes or Parthians. While she surrounded herself with the wonders of the academic world in the riches and luxury of the royal residence, outside her palace window the real one was being stretched at the seams, in danger of being ripped apart.

Pharaoh Ptolemy XII was in a troublesome position. His father had promised Egypt to Rome, a promise the Roman Senate had chosen not to act on – not yet, at least. Still, Ptolemy XII was smart enough to understand that to keep the Romans happy was to ensure Egypt's survival. He sent masses of money and bribes to Julius Caesar (at that time one of Rome's most important figures), which secured the Romans' support, but damned him in the eyes of his tax-burdened citizens. In 58 BCE he was forced into exile, taking his talented younger daughter with him. When he finally

"Cleopatra pushed her child brother-husband into the background and established herself as sole monarch of the country"



returned three years later, with the backing of a Roman army courtesy of the statesman Aulus Gabinius, he discovered his oldest daughter Berenice sitting on the throne. Displaying the brutal and uncompromising ferocity that ran through his entire family he had his daughter summarily executed, reclaimed the throne and ruled an uneasy Egypt until his death in 51 BCE. The crown and all the debts he had amassed became the property of his oldest surviving daughter, Cleopatra.

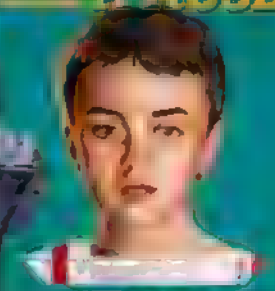
The 18-year-old was not – as some expected – a naïve wide-eyed child torn from her books to rule a kingdom on the brink of war. She had served as consort to her father for the final few years of his reign and all her education since birth had been designed to mould her into a capable queen. Queen, that was; not king, not pharaoh. Cleopatra was cursed by the requirement of all Egyptian queens to serve alongside a dominant male co-ruler and so found herself burdened with the task of being a subordinate co-regent to her ten-year-old brother, Ptolemy XIII.

Faced with a regency council full of ambitious men who ruled in her brother's stead and led by her own ruthless, impatient and intelligent nature, Cleopatra pushed her brother-husband into the background and established herself as sole monarch of the country. This was dangerous; the Alexandrian courtiers swarmed over the young, impressionable king, filling his head with whispers of sole rule and the dangers of his older sister. If Cleopatra had been more patient and attentive, she could perhaps have trained a capable and obedient co-ruler in him, one who would have aided her rule, instead of bringing it crashing down. But that was simply not the Ptolemy way, and she was a Ptolemy in every sense of the word – daring, ambitious and deadly. She dropped her brother's image from coins and erased his name from official documents. With her skill, drive and cunning she was perfect for rule; in her mind she deserved Egypt and wasn't prepared to share it.

> "With her popularity and reputation already in tatters, the disgraced queen fled from the city of her birth"

The early years of her reign would be testing, as not only was the country still struggling under the father's debts, but years of infrequent floods of the Nile had led to widespread famine. Over her shoulder Cleopatra could feel the ever-looming and rapidly expanding threat of Rome, and with a weak Egyptian army, her fertile land was ripe for the picking. As hungry peasants flooded into the

A HUSBAND & TWO LOVERS



Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator

EGYPTIAN, 62-47 BCE

How did they get together?
The marriage between Ptolemy and his sister was arranged, as was the tradition with Egyptian royalty.

Was it true love?
Considering their joint rule erupted into a brutal civil war, we can assume there was little love lost between the siblings. There is no evidence they consummated their marriage.

How did it end?
Ptolemy was forced to flee Alexandria when the forces of Caesar and Cleopatra claimed victory. He reportedly drowned attempting to cross the Nile.

Julius Caesar

ROMAN, 100-44 BCE

How did they get together?
Cleopatra and her brother both needed Caesar's support. Cleopatra met with Caesar before their scheduled meeting and managed to sway his vote. Her methods can be left to the imagination.

Was it true love?
Although the union was initially spawned from mutual political gain and the two were forbidden by Roman law to marry, Cleopatra seemed to stay loyal to Caesar and had his child.

How did it end?
This love affair was cut short when Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March.

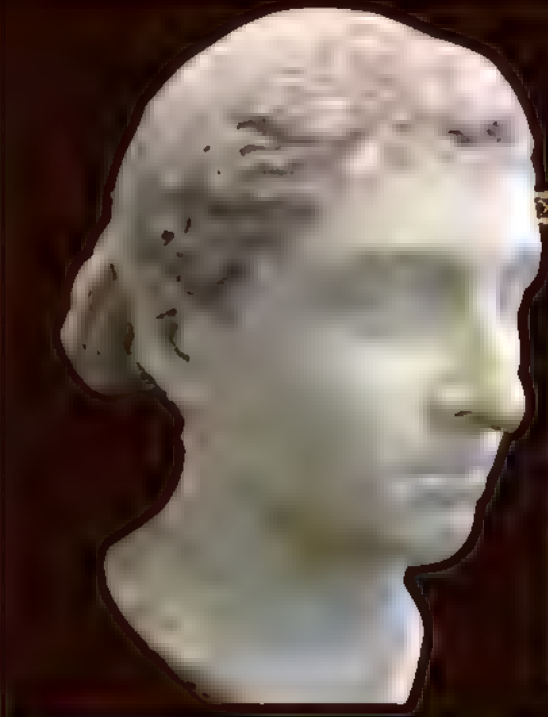
Mark Antony

ROMAN, 83-30 BCE

How did they get together?
Antony summoned Cleopatra to see if she would hold true in her promised support during the war against the Parthians. She reportedly charmed him during this meeting, perhaps much the same way she had Caesar.

Was it true love?
Although it may have been borne out of political agendas, the two had three children together, and Antony risked everything to be with his Egyptian queen.

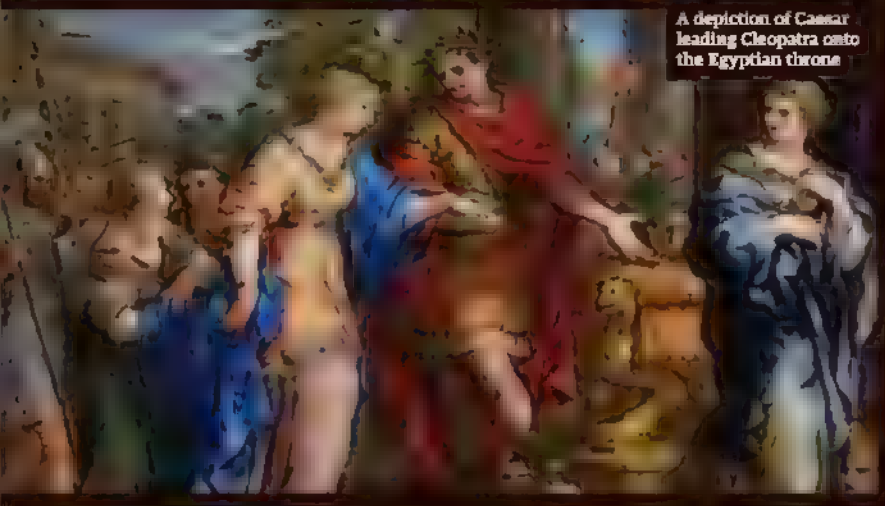
How did it end?
After the ill-fated Battle of Actium, Antony committed suicide upon mistakenly hearing Cleopatra was dead, and she quickly followed suit.



WAS SHE REALLY A BEAUTY?

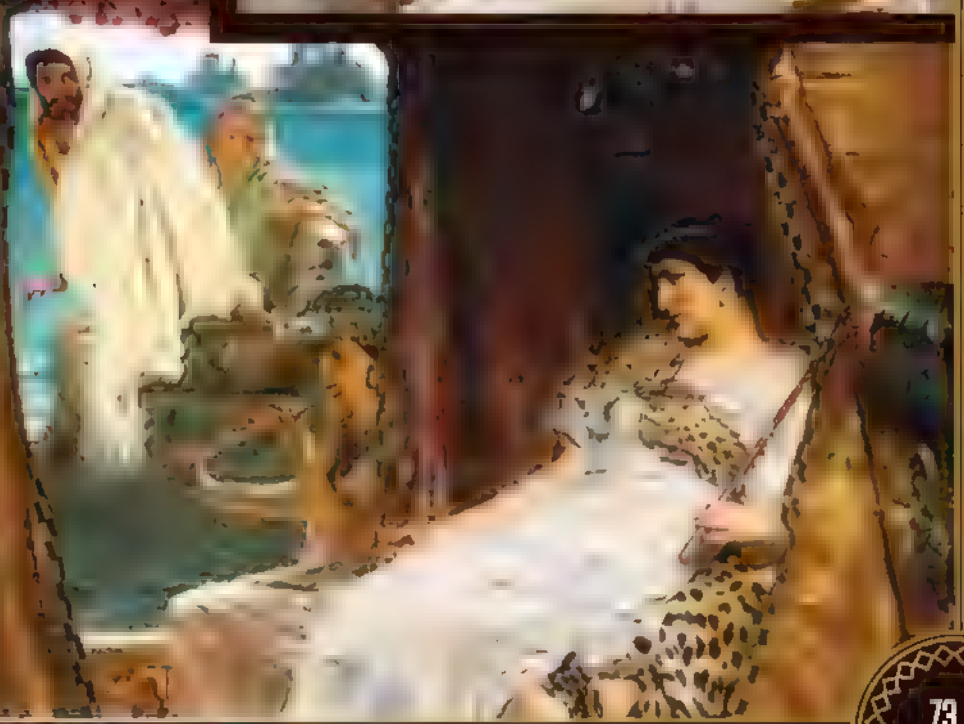
The popular image of Cleopatra is the stunning vision seen in paintings and films, especially the 1963 film starring Liz Taylor with her strong but delicate features. The difficulty with accessing the true appearance of the Egyptian queen comes from the fact that the Roman Emperor Augustus ordered all images of her to be destroyed. The few pieces that were spared are difficult to link directly to Cleopatra. Her own ancestry is also in doubt due to there being no concrete record of who her mother or grandmother were.

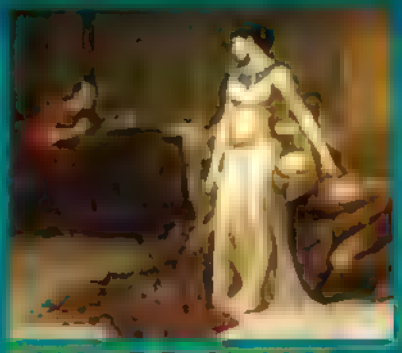
Historians know she was part Greek, which indicates she had an olive complexion with dark hair. The coins and few statues discovered present a thick neck, with a hooked nose and prominent chin, she was also likely to suffer from bad teeth like everyone else of her time. In Ancient Egypt being seen as male was a sign of strength, and the strong nose directly linked her with Ptolemy VIII, so it's reasonable to assume Cleopatra may have chosen to emphasise these traits. It is perhaps better to view Cleopatra as not one who possessed conventional beauty, but instead captivated with charm, intelligence and wit.



A depiction of Caesar leading Cleopatra onto the Egyptian throne

Cleopatra also struck up a fateful romance with Mark Antony





FIVE MYTHS UNRAVELLED

She was smuggled in a rug

The image of a dishevelled and flushed Cleopatra being unrolled from a Persian rug at Caesar's feet after being smuggled into the palace comes from the overzealous pen of Greek biographer Plutarch, but it's difficult to prove this happened. It seems unlikely that Caesar, one of the most powerful men in the world, would have welcomed a suspicious package into his room and even if so, there's no reason for her not to have emerged earlier and made a more elegant entrance.

She was a femme fatale

The idea that Cleopatra flittered between powerful men, wooing and manipulating with no idea of who fathered her children, is the result of an ancient smear campaign run against her by Roman officials. In fact there's only evidence of her having been with two men – Caesar and Mark Antony.

She was Egyptian

One of the most famous Egyptian pharaohs of all time wasn't Egyptian at all – she was Greek. Her family line is that of Ptolemy, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, and despite her family living in Egypt for over 300 years, she would have been regarded as Greek. Cleopatra was actually rare in that she could speak Egyptian, unlike many of her predecessors.

She wore a fake beard

The concept of female Egyptian queens sporting fake beards comes from the Egyptian belief that the god Osiris had a grand beard, prompting Egyptian pharaohs to do the same to establish themselves as divine beings. But by the time of Cleopatra this tradition had all but died out, and there's no record of her donning a fake beard. In fact, the only female pharaoh known to have worn one is Hatshepsut.

She died from an asp bite

This myth has gained momentum due to paintings of Cleopatra holding a snake to her bosom as she passes away. However, the accounts of this event are in some doubt, mainly because an asp will not cause a quick death as Cleopatra's was reported to be. It is more likely she drank a combination of poisons. The idea that the asp bit her breast is certainly incorrect, as all ancient sources state it bit her on the arm.

cities, Cleopatra's popularity plummeted, and her repeated decisions that seemed designed to please Rome at Egypt's expense reminded the bitter population of her despised father.

In the middle of this political turmoil Cleopatra found herself facing a familiar rival. Her brother was back and, aided by his many guardians and regents, was now a vicious and ruthless king who was not afraid to wipe her from the land and from history. He completely erased his sister's name from all official documents and backdated his monarchy, claiming sole rule since his father's death. With her popularity and reputation already in tatters, the disgraced queen fled from the city of her birth before an angry mob could storm the palace and inflict upon her the same grisly fate as so many of her greedy and ill-fated predecessors.

Having lost not only the support of her people but also the land she so strongly believed was hers to rule, Cleopatra escaped to Syria with a small band of loyal supporters. Fuelled by outrage at her brother, and even more so at the advisors who had crafted him into a vicious enemy, Cleopatra did not sink into depression or abandon her ambitions, but set about building the army she would need to reclaim her throne. As the female pharaoh amassed her forces in Syria, her young brother, barely 13 years old, became distracted by the ever-pressing Roman civil war. After a humiliating defeat to Caesar in Pharsalus, the Roman military leader Pompey the Great fled to the one place he was assured he could find refuge; his old ally, Egypt.

With his wife and children watching nervously from afar Pompey disembarked his grand ship to board a small fishing boat to the shore. The Egyptian boy pharaoh, Ptolemy, sat on the shore in a throne fashioned specifically for the occasion. He watched Pompey closely, his face guarded and unreadable, but the men around him threw their arms open and, with wide smiles, cried, "Hail, commander!" It was not until the ship reached the shore that Pompey realised the murderous web in which he was entangled. Before he could cry out he was ran through with a sword and stabbed over and over again in the back. While the once-great consul was decapitated and his mutilated corpse thrown into the sea, Ptolemy did not even rise from his throne. The entire ceremony had been a ruse; a rival of Caesar's was more valuable dead than alive.

When Caesar arrived in the harbour of Alexandria four days later, he was presented with the head of his rival. However, in mere moments Ptolemy's advisors realised their mistake, for the Roman general was completely and utterly appalled. He wept loudly and openly before leading his forces to the royal palace in Alexandria. As he observed the local resentment and civil war threatening to break the land in two he made a decision – he needed the wealth that Alexandrian taxes would give him and the only way of increasing taxes was to establish stability in the city; the sibling rivalry had to end. He summoned Cleopatra and Ptolemy to appear before him.

This was easy for Ptolemy who swiftly journeyed to Alexandria, but Cleopatra would have to use all her cunning just to make it into the city alive. With the harbour blocked by her brother's ships, she slipped away from her troops and travelled in a small boat along the coast in the dead of night. Her journey had been completely and utterly unfitting for a pharaoh of Egypt, a Ptolemy queen; but victory demanded sacrifice and she was confident the streets and waters she was smuggled down would soon be hers again. It had been a challenge to make it into the palace district, but the real night's work was about to begin – she was about to go face to face with arguably the most powerful man in the known world.

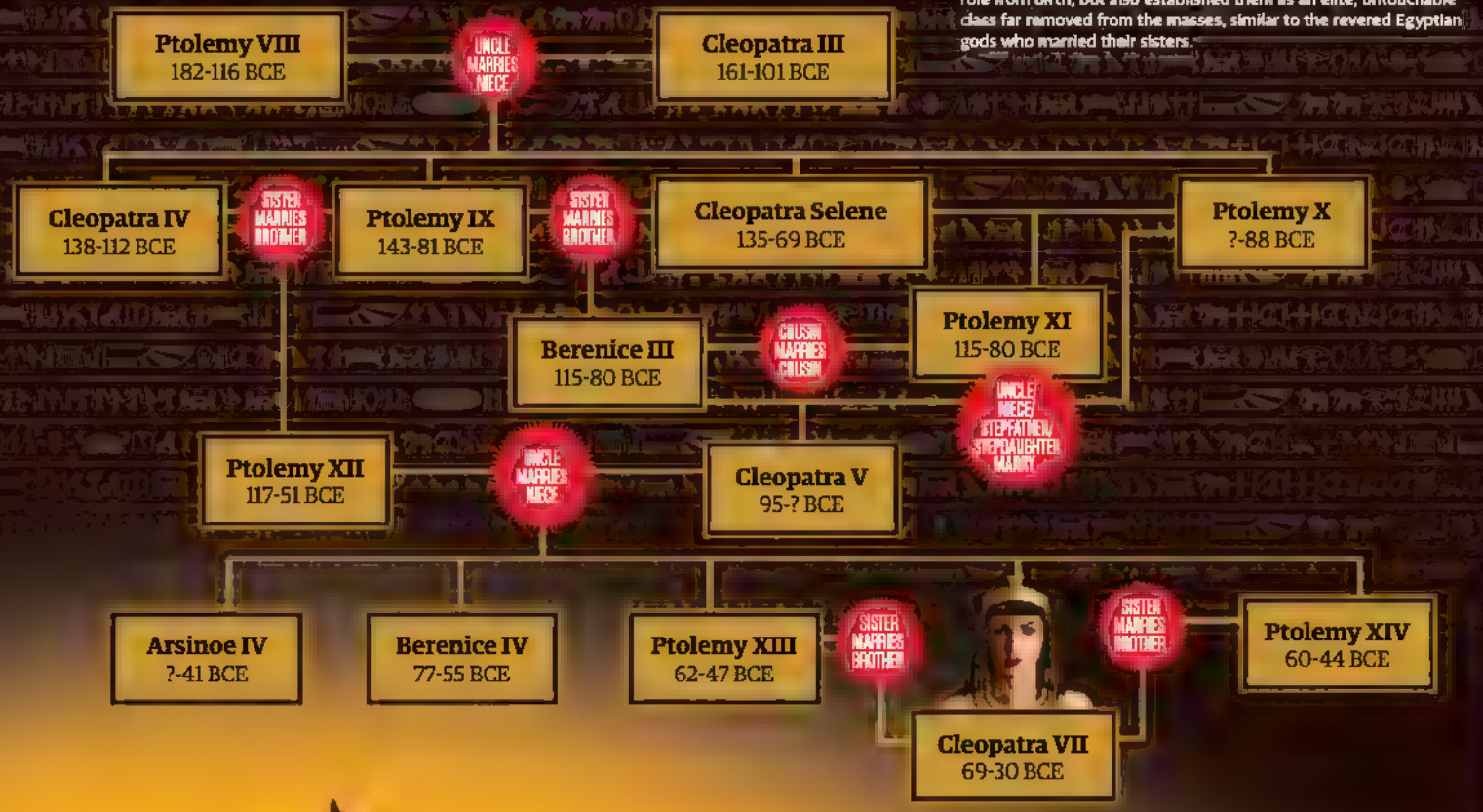
> "With her skill, drive and cunning she was perfect for rule, she deserved Egypt, and she wasn't going to share it"

Her brother would bend over backwards, slay Caesar's enemies and kiss his feet for his support, but he was quick to panic, eager to please and terrified of angering Rome. Her brother was a fool. Caesar needed Egypt as much as Egypt needed Rome and she would use that fact to her advantage. She would not wait to bow and scrape and plead her case alongside a child, she was going to speak to the Roman general that night. She sneaked into the palace and found her way into Caesar's private chamber.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Follow Cleopatra's family tree and discover just how close-knit the Ptolemies really were...

The Ptolemies of Egypt could trace their ancestry to Ptolemy I Soter, a Greek general of Alexander the Great who became ruler of Egypt in 323 BCE. After Alexander's death, his most senior generals divided his vast territory between themselves. Completely oblivious to the dangers of interbreeding, it became customary for the Ptolemies to marry their brothers and sisters. It was convenient for them as not only did it ensure queens could be trained for their role from birth, but also established them as an elite, untouchable class far removed from the masses, similar to the revered Egyptian gods who married their sisters.



Cleopatra got her own fleet of ships from Caesar and later Mark Antony

A GODDESS AMONG MORTALS

After the birth of Caesarion, Cleopatra could finally rid herself of the irritating requirement to have a male co-ruler and changed her image from female king to that of divine mother. This would have been eagerly adopted by her Egyptian and Greek subjects who were already very much aware of the most famous and beloved mother in mythology – Isis. With the Egyptian royalty already firmly linked to divine beings it would not take much effort for Cleopatra to portray herself as a vision of the ideal queen, wife and mother. She was quick to create coins bearing her image with the suckling Caesarion at her breast, an instantly recognisable depiction of Isis, the mother of all. To further encourage the cult, she dressed in the ceremonial robes of the goddess and in 34 BCE she was given the title 'New Isis.' The cult proved to be so successful that to this day archaeologists and historians struggle to distinguish between statues of the Egyptian goddess, and the queen who became her.

Isis

GODDESS OF HEALTH, MARRIAGE, LOVE

How powerful was she?

Isis was firmly associated with kingship and was portrayed as the mother of pharaohs, as well as capable of using magic strong enough to defy death.

What's her story?

Isis was the daughter of the god of Earth and goddess of the sky, married her brother Osiris and became mother of Horus. It was said that she resurrected Osiris after he was murdered by Set, and this rebirth was believed to manifest itself in the seasonal flooding of the Nile, which was vital for Egypt's survival. It was celebrated every year in rituals and Isis became a prominent and revered figure throughout Egypt.

The 'dictator in perpetuity' as he would come to be known in Rome towered over the small woman; she would have to crane her head to look him in the eye, she realised instantly. He was far older than the young, bold Egyptian queen and his receding hairline was poorly disguised. The general was past his physical prime, but he had just won his greatest victory. This was her first time gazing upon the Roman celebrity known the world over, but this was also the first time he was facing her. Her brother was a child, a mere puppet pharaoh on strings, dancing to the pulls of his corrupt advisors, but she had been granted with all the charm, intelligence and ambition of her forefathers. She would steal Caesar and Rome's support while her brother slept; her charisma would succeed where her brother's sword had failed.

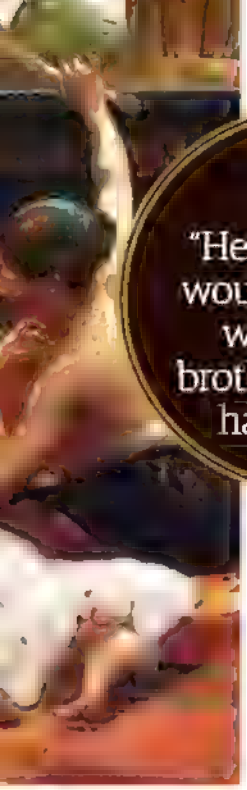
Cleopatra's image on a silver coin

The young Ptolemy XIII awoke the next day, not expecting his dangerous older sister to have even made it to the palace. When he discovered that not only was she there, but had also seduced Caesar overnight into joining her cause, it was the final straw. Screaming in desperation he fled from the palace, tore his crown from his head and fell to his knees. His sister had done it again. She was completely and utterly impossible to get rid off and, even as the crowd surged forward in protest, Caesar could not be swayed. The siblings would rule Egypt together, just as their father had intended. Rome had spoken.

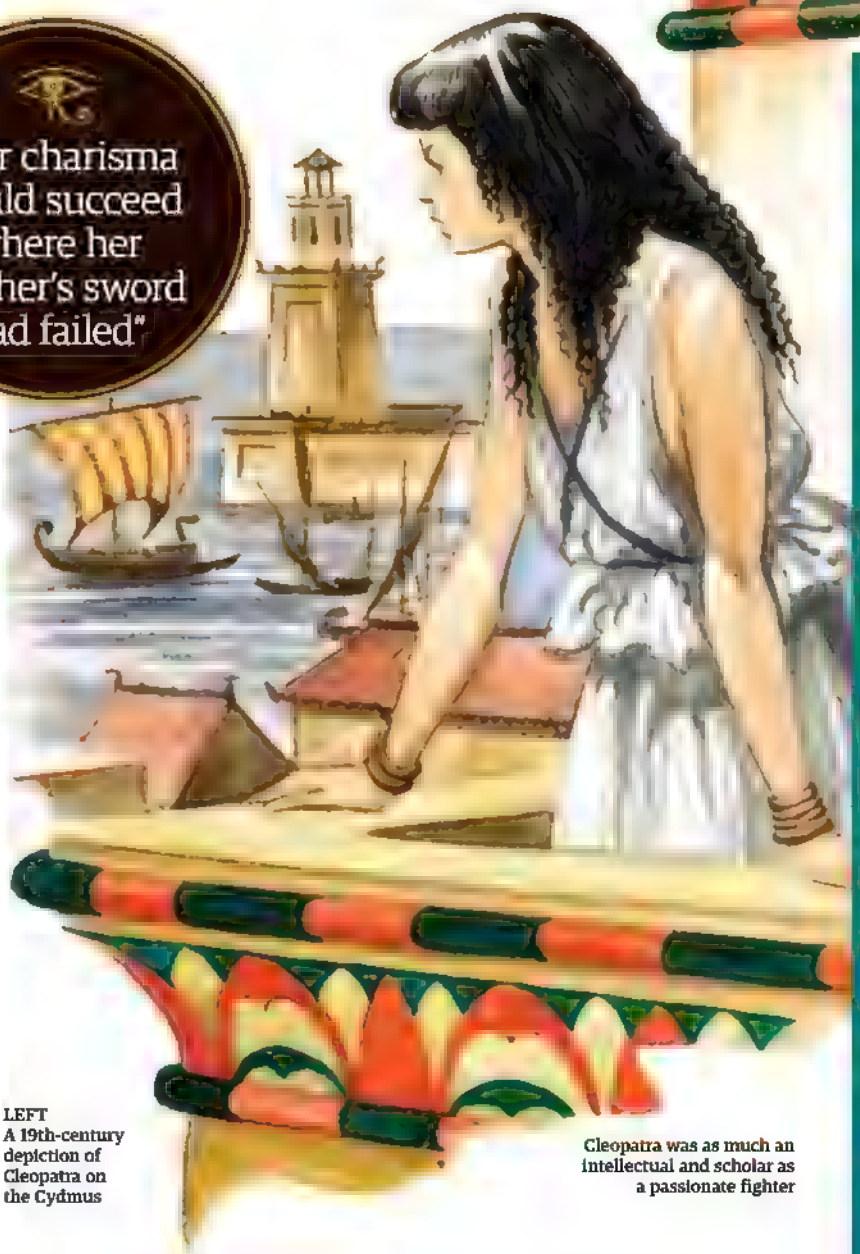
The apparent peace did not last long. Already poisoned by the ambitious whispers that had fed his youth, Ptolemy joined with his rebellious sister Arsinoe IV. Between them they amassed an army large enough to challenge Cleopatra and Caesar's forces in Egypt. The country they fought for would pay the price, and in December of 48 BCE the famous stone city of Alexandria was set alight, destroying not only the lives of hundreds of citizens, but also the world-famous library that housed countless priceless manuscripts. When Caesar's reinforcements poured into the city from Pergamum Ptolemy's forces were finally defeated. The young and impetuous king tried to flee across the Nile in an overcrowded boat but his vessel sank, dragging him and his elaborate, heavy golden armour down with it.

One Ptolemy was dead, but another still lived. Ptolemy XIV, Cleopatra's 13-year-old brother, became her husband and co-ruler immediately after her brother's death. She might have had Caesar's support, but tradition was still tradition and a lone woman could not rule Egypt. As for Caesar, he had put in place a reliable partnership and Egypt was, for all intents and purposes, a Roman territory. In a lavish display of the new

"Her charisma would succeed where her brother's sword had failed"



LEFT
A 19th-century depiction of Cleopatra on the Cydnus



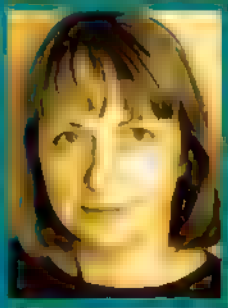
Cleopatra was as much an intellectual and scholar as a passionate fighter

union, a fleet of Roman and Egyptian ships sailed down the Nile accompanied by the grand royal barge where Cleopatra and Caesar sat together.

Egypt and Rome were united, but Cleopatra still found herself co-ruler to another Ptolemy who would inevitably grow up, ambitious and treacherous. She could not allow another brother to be swayed by advisors and driven against her. As long as Ptolemy XIV lived, her rule was threatened. She wasn't a fool, she knew Egypt would never accept a solitary female queen, but there was a technicality that would ensure her effective sole rule. Her partnership with Caesar had provided more than his political support, she was pregnant and in 47 BCE gave birth. The gods' will was in her favour - the child was a boy. She named him Caesarion, or 'Little Caesar', and now had an heir. For three years Cleopatra tightened her grip on the Egyptian throne, slowly winning the love of the Alexandrian mobs that had previously screamed for her head. She travelled to Rome with her son and resided in Caesar's country house as heated rumours about the paternity of her son gained speed. She did little to squash them; a possible heir of Caesar was a very powerful tool to have.

When Caesar was assassinated on 15 March 44 BCE, Cleopatra left Rome and returned to Alexandria. If there was ever a time to act, it was now. Without her powerful Roman lover by her side she needed an ally who could assure her rule, one who wasn't going to lead a rebellion against her. Brothers, she had learned, could not be trusted. Later that year the youngest Ptolemy was found dead, seemingly poisoned. The people's grief was muted; the death of Ptolemies, however young, was not so uncommon in Egypt, and besides, the people had a new pharaoh to replace him, the young Caesarion. Cleopatra had finally done it, she was Egypt's pharaoh and with her son an infant she was ruling alone in all but name. The power of Egypt was hers.

EGYPTIAN EXPERT



Dr Joyce Tyldesley teaches Egyptology at Manchester University. She has published a series of books and articles on ancient Egypt; these include *Cleopatra, Last Queen Of Egypt*, which was a Radio 4 "Book of the Week." Her most recent book, *Tutankhamen's Curse* won the Felicia A Holton Book Award from the Archaeological Institute of America.

Was Cleopatra a good ruler?
This is a difficult question to answer, as it depends on the definition of 'good'. I would certainly argue she was an effective ruler; she inherited a country on the verge of bankruptcy and, bringing a much-needed stability, ruled for over 20 years. For a long time her personal alliances with Rome protected her land against invasion. Compared to many of the earlier Ptolemies she was indeed a good ruler, and it is difficult to think of a contemporary Ptolemy who could have done a better job.

What do you believe drove Cleopatra's actions?
Cleopatra was born a member of the Ptolemaic royal family and like all her siblings, she felt she had a right to rule Egypt. So her actions were less a ruthless quest for power and more an assertion of her god-given right to rule.

Why do you think people are still fascinated by Cleopatra today?
Cleopatra has all the ingredients we seem to like in an ancient world celebrity: fabulous wealth, power, and if not beauty, the ability to bend powerful men to her will. Her dramatic and still not entirely explained death simply adds to her mystique.

Is there a side to Cleopatra that you believe has been ignored in modern depictions of her?
Two things; first, in the western historical tradition we tend to underestimate her intelligence, seeing her as a woman very much ruled by her heart rather than her head. This is because we draw our history from the Romans. Arab scholars have preserved the memory of a very different Cleopatra; a queen who was first and foremost a scholar.

Secondly, we often overlook the fact that she was a mother to four children. This to Cleopatra, was extremely important; it influenced her decisions and linked her very closely to the Egyptian goddess Isis, mother of the god Horus.

MACHINES OF WAR

Mankind has always excelled at crafting weapons of death, from ancient mechanised monstrosities through to the sleekest killing tools of today

Written by Rob Jones

Throughout history mankind has killed in the name of race, religion, colour and for that oldest of ambitions: power. The creativity that has been used to write amazing books, paint masterpieces, compose symphonies and produce inventions that have transformed the world forever has also been turned to the sphere of warfare. The mastery of physics, mathematics and engineering has been used to build increasingly refined machines of war.

No matter where the perceived threat has been located, be it on land, sea or in the air, humans have managed to build some sort of weapon to eradicate it. From colossal monolithic catapults capable of hurling bone-shattering boulders, through vast warships capable of levelling entire towns with a battery of cannon fire and to missiles that can cross entire continents, our ingenious cruelty has known no bounds. War has shaped our civilisations, defined and redefined our man-made borders and even dictated our recorded history, with the truth of events almost always warped and corrupted by the victors, damaging our ability to learn from past mistakes.

Here we explore some of man's most ground-breaking and notorious machines of war. Weapons that, despite their size and complexity, have gone down in history due to their infamy, arms that have been recorded due to their refined ability to kill with an unsurpassed efficiency. So, strap on your helmet and be prepared to hit the deck, for things are about to get as hot as hell.

TREBUCHET 500 BCE

While humans had been killing each other for millennia prior to its invention, it was arguably only in the first millennium BCE that they started to bring serious engineering into the equation. Emerging out of China, the earliest traction trebuchets evolved from the ancient sling and, unlike the later and more famous counterweight trebuchets, were small and built so that only a few people were needed to operate them.

This type of primitive trebuchet worked by attaching a large sling to a long, wooden throwing arm, which itself was drawn back by humans pulling on long ropes and then actuated by lever mechanism. The resultant sling action could propel weights of over 100 kilograms (220 pounds) up to an impressive 60 metres (200 feet) and were useful as anti-infantry machines, crushing man and beast alike.

Despite the proliferation of the traction trebuchet, which spread throughout the East and then into the West in the late centuries BCE, it was not until the 11th century that the more advanced counterweight trebuchet was introduced. Unlike their forebears, these trebuchets were far larger, needed huge teams of men to operate and were capable of throwing massive weights incredible distances. This was due to their novel counterweight-propulsion mechanism, which utilised gravity to rotate the throwing arm.

The consequence of the larger scale and more refined throwing mechanism meant that missiles weighing over 300 kilograms (660 pounds) could be propelled up to 300 metres (1,000 feet). Now it wasn't just men and animals that needed to fear the wrath of the trebuchet, but the inhabitants of castles and forts too, with their supposedly impregnable walls giving little protection from the rain of rocks, flaming pyres and diseased animal carcasses hurtling towards them.

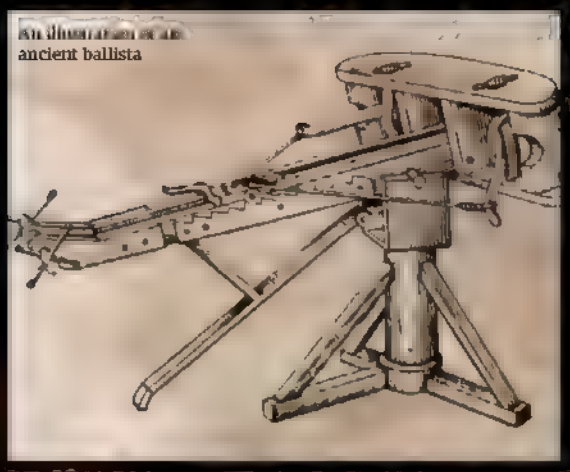
SIEGE BREAKER
KILL EFFICIENCY
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
SHOCK FACTOR
ENGINEERING GENIUS
1. COUNTERWEIGHT
Ranging from a simple boulder though to a purpose-built weight-carrying container, the trebuchet's counterweight is the component that grants it its enormous power, utilising gravity's effect on it to rotate the throwing arm rapidly.
2. THROWING ARM
A long wooden strut that pivots within the trebuchet's framework, the throwing arm is responsible for propelling the device's ammunition.
3. SLING
The trebuchet's ammunition is held by the sling, a reinforced leather, fabric and rope strapping attached to the end of the throwing arm. The sling is propelled forward by the throwing arm to release its contents.
4. BASE AND FRAME
Due to the weight of the missiles thrown, a large, flat base is required. This base is often affixed to the ground by braces to eradicate any lateral movement while firing. A support frame is also necessary to prevent stress fracturing.
5. PROJECTILE GUIDE
Situated on the base frame, the projectile guide is a crucial component on the trebuchet as even the smallest error in alignment at the firing end can lead to the projectile widely missing its mark.

BALLISTA 400 BCE

BRUTAL SNIPER

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●

The earliest form of this is thought to have been developed for the Greek tyrant Dionysius of Syracuse, in around 400 BCE. The ballista was a weapon designed to throw 26-kilogram (57-pound), metal-tipped lances at high velocity toward – and through – humans. However, the ballista's brutal mechanism was not the only reason it was so feared upon the battlefield – it was its excellent range and accuracy. The ballista was the first true sniper weapon, with the largest variants capable of hitting single targets from over 450 metres (1,475 feet) away. Historical records from Roman times indicate that skilled operators could pick off enemy archers even with them in an advantageous position, such as on battlements. The ballista was so effective thanks to its utilisation of the torsion spring, which had been invented in the last decades of Ancient Greece. Torsion springs were wrapped around the weapon's bow arms, with the arms in turn attached to the lance-throwing bowstring. As the torsion springs were winch-twisted by the weapon's operators, extreme amounts of energy could be stored and harnessed.



An illustration of an ancient ballista

CROSSBOW 200 BCE

5. SIGHT
Early crossbows came with no sight, requiring the user to merely look down its body for sighting purposes. Basic iron sights were later affixed, making the weapon even deadlier.

3. CRANK
A crucial part of the crossbow's design was the crank. This small mechanism, which came in many forms including windlass, rack and pinion as well as push and pull lever, allowed the weapon to be armed with little physical input.

4. STIRRUP HOOP
Despite requiring little physical strength to cock, crossbows were still large and cumbersome weapons to handle, so many designs were equipped with a foot stirrup.

2. QUIVER
The bolts for the bow could be held in a variety of ways, ranging from narrow arrow-like quivers through to chunkier wooden and metal containers.

1. COMMON CLASS
Unlike longbowmen, crossbowmen required little training to operate the weapon effectively, progressing to full competence within a week.

BOW KILLER

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●

Sometimes bigger is better, but in the case of the crossbow, smaller was not just better, but far more deadly. By taking the principles and engineering of the ballista, and then shrinking it, this refined killing machine placed the power of life and death in more hands than ever before in history.

Simple to operate, cheap to build and easy to operate, the crossbow changed the entire culture and tactics of ranged combat. Prior to its invention the bow and arrow had been the only form of hand-held, long-ranged weaponry, and they required considerable skill, strength and training to fire. However, the crossbow could be placed in anyone's hands and fired with little effort, transforming even the weakest individuals into cold-blooded killers.

The crossbow spread from East Asia into the West in the early centuries CE, becoming established as the primary form of ranged weaponry in numerous European armies by the 12th century. The result was that many established military roles were rendered obsolete, such as the heavily armoured knight class who were vulnerable to the high-velocity crossbow bolts and thus no longer as useful.

FOLLOW OUR COMPREHENSIVE TIMELINE OF SOME OF HISTORY'S OTHER KILLING MACHINES

30000 BCE

Shortbow
After the spear and dart, the oldest weapon to be created by humankind was the bow and arrow, which proceeded to be used in hunting and warfare for several millennia.
30000 BCE

Spoke-wheeled chariot
The backbone of many ancient armies, these battle taxis could cut down men and animals as well as provide mobile command and archery platforms.
2000 BCE

Battering ram
Developed in Ancient Assyria the battering ram went on to be a key machine of war for any army, allowing the doors of castles and cities to be broken down
1000 BCE

Siege tower
A large, armoured mobile tower in which soldiers could climb up to the level of a city's walls' fortifications and then surmount them. The siege tower was a passive but specialised machine of war
900 BCE

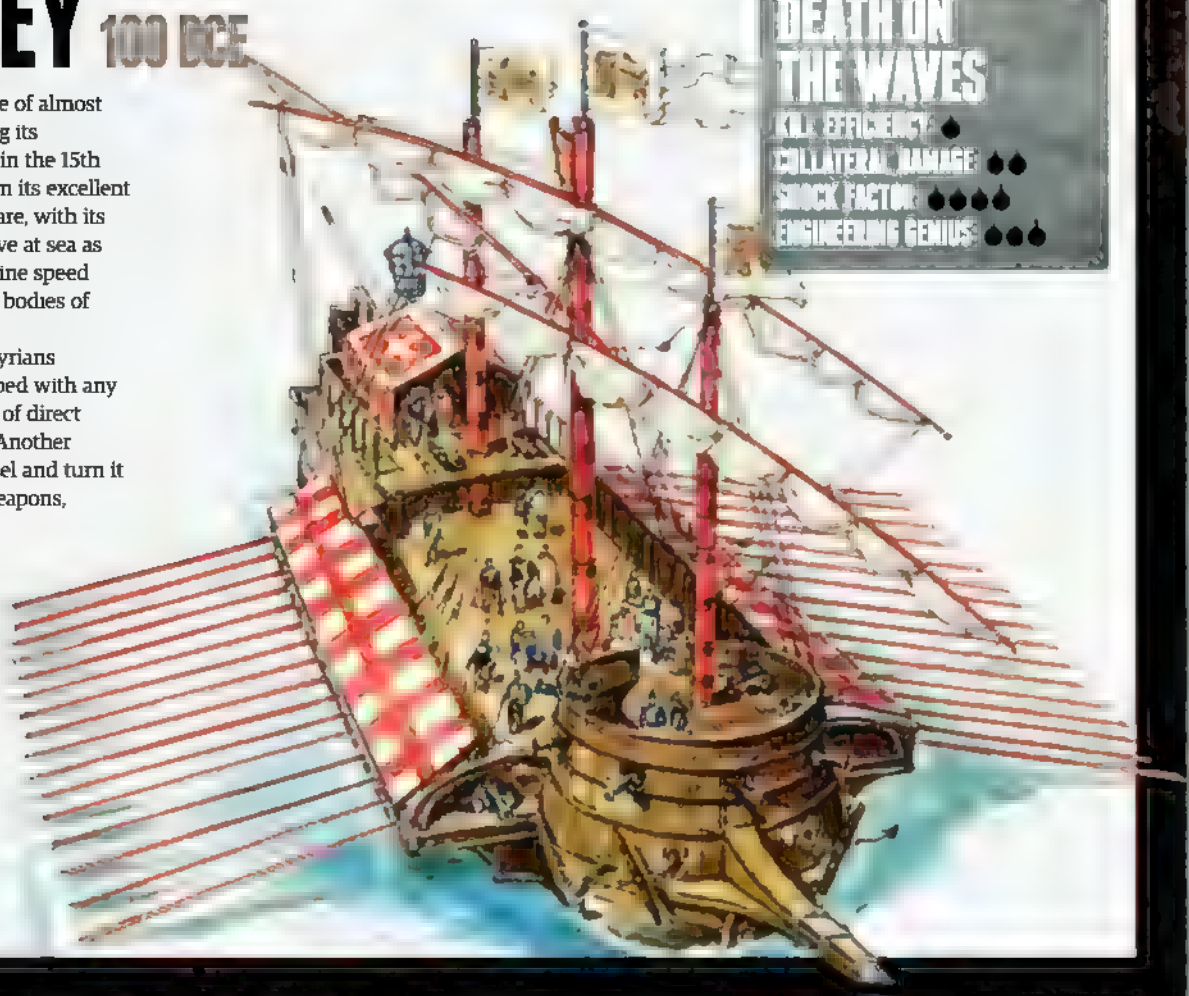
Greek fire
Mixtures of chemical components, including pine resin naphtha, sulphur and nitre were used to make an incendiary weapon that rained down burning liquid fire on its enemy
673 CE

WAR GALLEY 100 BCE

The war galley became the backbone of almost all navies around the world following its introduction, reaching a peak usage in the 15th century. Its popularity stemmed from its excellent suitability to pre-cannon naval warfare, with its long narrow hull making it responsive at sea as well as providing excellent straight-line speed under oar, allowing its crew to cross bodies of water more rapidly than before.

From the Ancient Greeks and Assyrians onward, the galley was rarely equipped with any sort of weaponry, with its only form of direct attack being to ram the opposition. Another popular tactic was to sacrifice a vessel and turn it into a fireship. Despite the lack of weapons, the galley was feared as it could quickly drop off 50 or more heavily armed soldiers in enemy territory, or chase down rivals on the water like no other.

In the last decades of its widespread use, cannons were introduced to the galley with limited success. Due to the vessel's design – with a narrow hull and oarsmen at either side – the cannons had to be placed at the bow facing forward, limiting the firing arc and gun placements.

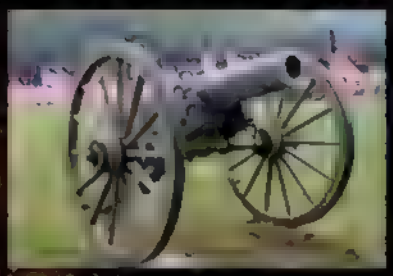


DEATH ON THE WAVES

KILL EFFICIENCY ●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●

A 16th-century war galley – note the peculiar gun placements near the bow

CANNON 1100



First developed by the Ancient Chinese, the cannon evolved from the earlier firelance, gunpowder-filled tubes that could be sent flying at an enemy. As the cannon spread from the East into the West, it evolved into the larger, metal-barrelled weapon we know today. These first cannons fired cannonballs as well as chunks of shrapnel, meaning they were especially deadly to humans.

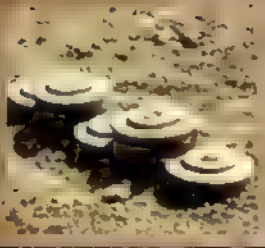
An early example of the Western cannon is the pot-de-fer ('iron pot'), a primitive cannon made with an iron barrel. This weapon was used by the French and the English during the Hundred Years' War, eventually superseded by more refined variants of various sizes. Soon, cannons of different sizes were in operation, ranging from small, cart-mounted mobile artillery units right through to immense 16.8-ton monsters that required a team of 200 men to operate effectively and more than 70 oxen to transport.

FIRE AND IRON

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●

Gun
The first identified gun originated in China and consisted of a bamboo tube that was filled with gunpowder and a spear. When ignited, the spear would be propelled forward at great speed.
1000

Land mines
The first land mines emerged out of the 13th-century Chinese Song Dynasty. The devices were used with tripwires to catch unsuspecting enemies unawares.
1277



Arquebus
A forerunner to the musket and the rifle, the arquebus was an early muzzle-loading, smooth-bore firearm. It was lighter and much less accurate than the musket
1450

Mortar
An evolution of the straight cannonball-firing cannon, the mortar introduced explosive ammunition to the battlefield, with the machine hurling gunpowder-filled bombs at the enemy
1453

RIFLE 1800

The rifle took the smooth-bore musket and made it even more lethal. This lethal touch was added thanks to an ingenious modification to the barrel of the weapon. By scoring a helical groove referred to as the rifling into the barrel's walls, as the weapon's projectile – such as a bullet – passed through it, the barrel would make it spin, significantly increasing the weapon's range and accuracy.

The first rifles were introduced in the Napoleonic Wars, with the British arming soldiers with the new weapon. After initial problems with the rifle, such as difficulty in loading, it evolved to include breech-loading, allowing for bullets to be quickly inserted and fired. By the close of the 19th century, revolving rifles, repeating cartridge rifles and many other deadly rifles had been introduced.

An early version of a double-barrelled rifle

DEATH IN A SPIN

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●●

MACHINE GUN 1860

Of these first automatic machines, the Gatling gun was the deadliest, with its six barrels capable of firing hundreds of bullets per minute. Within years of its introduction, Gatling guns were in production that had theoretical rates of fire of over 1,200 rounds per minute.

The Gatling gun was soon followed by a conveyor belt of more refined and deadly machines. The handheld machine gun was created, as well as increasingly mobile iterations of the weapon that could be deployed on the battlefield with unsurpassed rapidity, or mounted to ships, tanks and other military vehicles with consummate ease.

1,200 RPM

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●

U-BOAT 1903

A stealth weapon utilised by Germany during both World Wars, the U-boat was an armed submarine capable of different roles; as a fearsome hunter-killer, chasing down Allied vessels and sinking them with torpedoes and as raider, disrupting supply lines and enemy convoys.

Due to their stealth ability, as well as the fact that they operated in groups referred to as 'wolf packs', the U-boat became infamous for its ability to sink even the biggest military warships while remaining undetected and unharmed. It was only when a variety of countermeasures were later developed, such as depth charges and active sonar, that the tide began to be turned on these wolves of the sea, with Allied forces working in unison to take them down.

While the U-boat's legacy lives on today in modern nuclear military submarines, by the end of World War II it had been rendered largely obsolete, with the U-boat fleet suffering a 75 per cent casualty rate, a fact that saw over 28,000 submariners lose their lives.

THE DEADLY WOLF PACK

KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●●

Musket
A heavier, more refined evolution of the arquebus, the musket allowed its user to fire bullets at high velocity at the enemy. It was used at first as a specialised, armour-piercing weapon.
1550

Torpedo
The first modern torpedo to be invented was the Whitehead torpedo of 1866, a self-propelled underwater weapon with a warhead of 53.5kg (118lb) of nitrocellulose.
1866

Flamethrower
The modern flamethrower was invented by Germany's Richard Fiedler in 1901. The machine, which was single-shot, projected a jet of fire over 18m (59ft).
1901

Fragmentation grenade
The first modern fragmentation grenade was the Mills bomb, an explosive-filled steel canister fitted with a triggering pin and a deeply notched surface.
1915

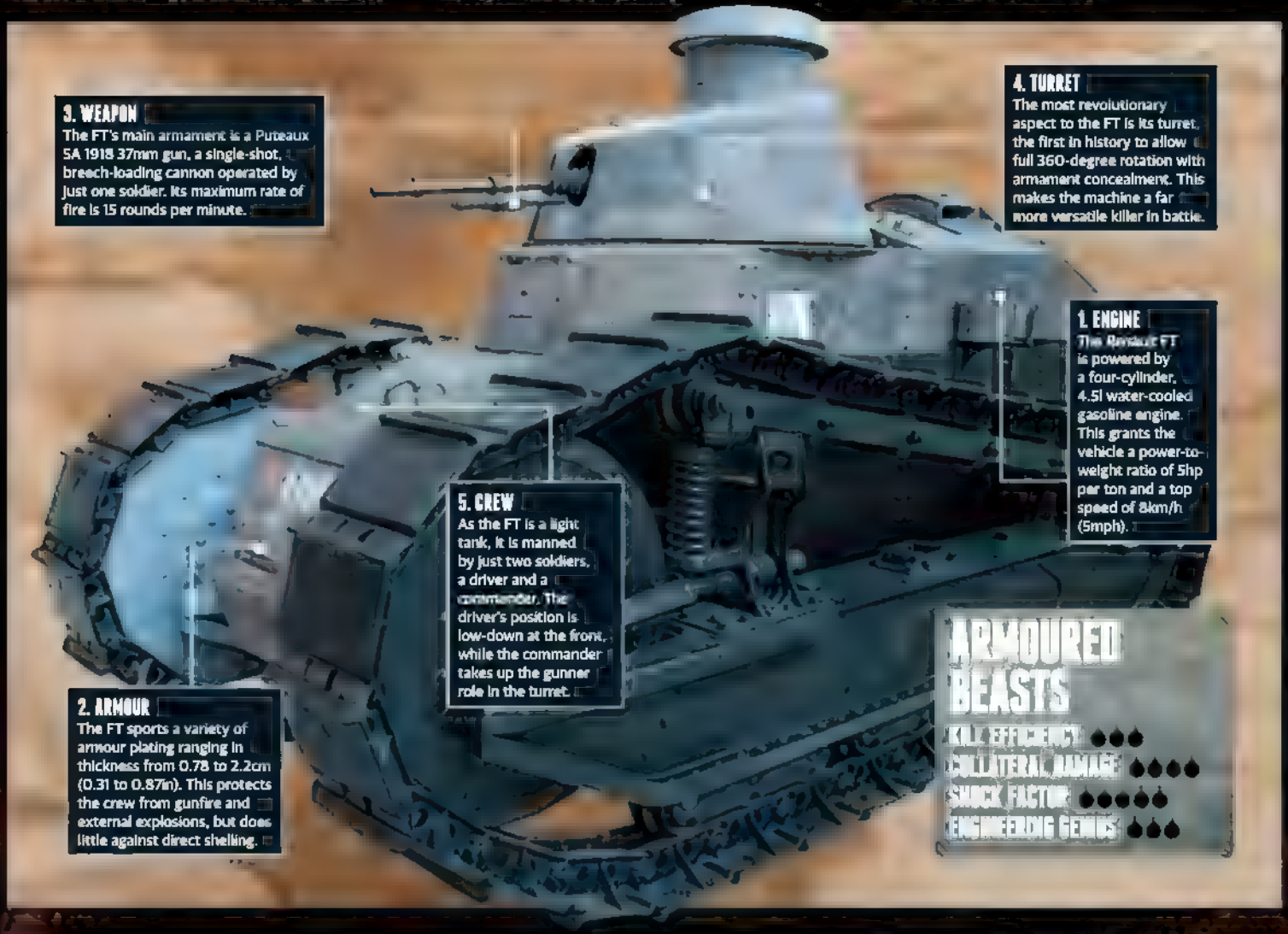
Napalm bomb
A devastating mixture of petroleum and a gelling agent that sticks to human skin and causes severe burns when ignited. Napalm was first used in WWI.
1942

TANK 1916

Weighing several tons, armed with shell-slinging cannons and protected with thick metal plating, these tracked titans not only changed warfare forever but struck fear into the hearts of men, no matter what their allegiance or nationality.

The tank was born out of the suicidal stalemate of WWI, with the Allies desperate to create a machine of war capable of breaking the limbo malaise of trench warfare. The British were the first to field a tank in 1916 (the Mark I), but this machine – and its immediate successors – was renowned for mechanical unreliability, granting little real edge in combat aside from the fear factor it struck when operational.

By World War II, the tank had developed into a key unit in any army, capable of literally steamrolling the enemy under their weighty tracks. Men could be crushed and shot, buildings and vehicles could be demolished and despoiled and enemy lines could be stormed with ease, with the latter seeing new military tactics implemented, such as Germany's Blitzkrieg 'lightning war' that saw much of Europe taken within a series of short, brutal, tank-led campaigns.



3. WEAPON
The FT's main armament is a Puteaux SA 1918 37mm gun, a single-shot, breech-loading cannon operated by just one soldier. Its maximum rate of fire is 15 rounds per minute.

4. TURRET
The most revolutionary aspect to the FT is its turret, the first in history to allow full 360-degree rotation with armament concealment. This makes the machine a far more versatile killer in battle.

1. ENGINE
The Renault FT is powered by a four-cylinder, 4.5l water-cooled gasoline engine. This grants the vehicle a power-to-weight ratio of 5hp per ton and a top speed of 8km/h (5mph).

5. CREW
As the FT is a light tank, it is manned by just two soldiers, a driver and a commander. The driver's position is low-down at the front, while the commander takes up the gunner role in the turret.

2. ARMOUR
The FT sports a variety of armour plating ranging in thickness from 0.78 to 2.2cm (0.31 to 0.87in). This protects the crew from gunfire and external explosions, but does little against direct shelling.

ARMOURED BEASTS
KILL EFFICIENCY ●●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●

- **Helicopter** The first mass-produced military helicopter was the Sikorsky R-4. This innovative war machine was capable of flying at 105km/h (75mph) and up to 2,440m (8,000ft) high. **1944**
- **Atomic bomb** Led by J Robert Oppenheimer, the Manhattan Project produced the world's first atomic bomb. The weapons were then dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. **1945**

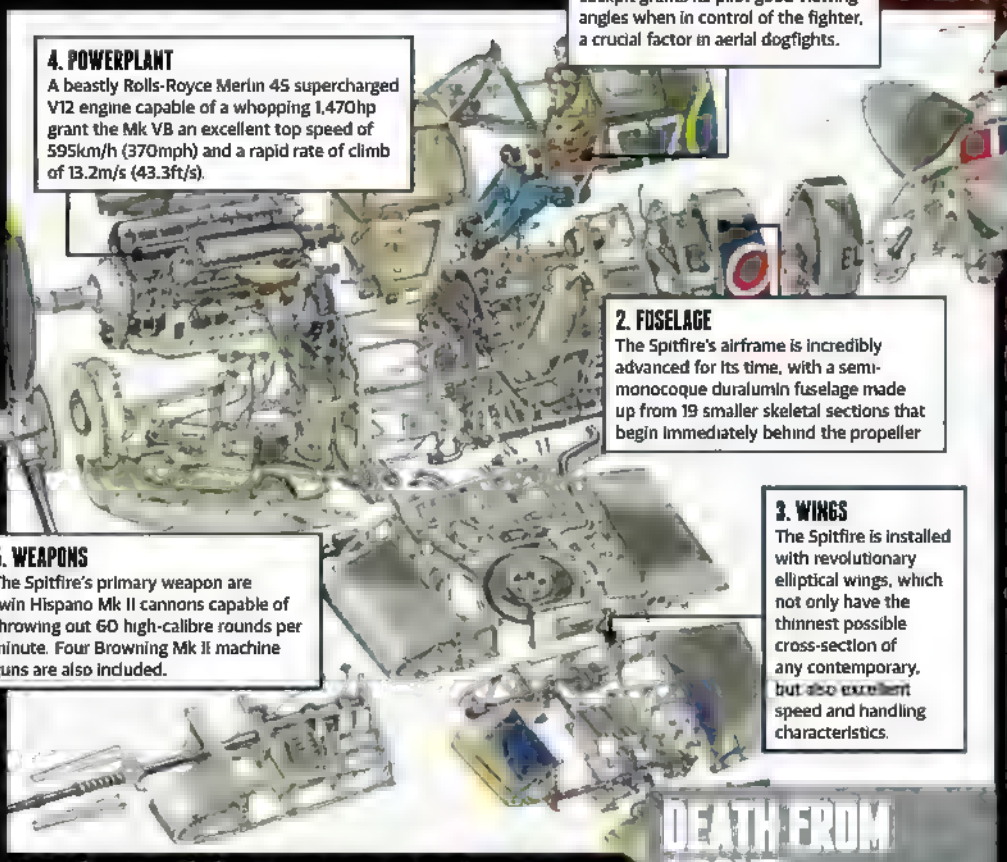
- **Powered exoskeleton** The current wave of militarised exoskeletons began with the Hardiman unit in 1965. Today these machines allow soldiers to lift and carry far more when in the field. **1965**
- **Taser** A non-lethal weapon used to take down and neutralise foes by electrical current-induced neuromuscular incapacitation, the taser has become a popular tool in modern law enforcement. **1974**
- **UAV** While unmanned aerial vehicles have been in production for several decades, their usage today is greater than ever before, with over 50 countries currently using these 'drone' machines in warfare. **2014**

FIGHTER PLANE 1914

Before the 20th century, humans had mastered ways to kill on sea and on land, but the air remained unconquered. That all changed at the outbreak of WWI, when the fighter plane was invented. Within years of the Wright Brothers first taking to the skies the aeroplane had been converted into a fearsome machine of war.

Equipped with braces of high-calibre machine guns and piloted by men with nerves of steel, these new fighters specialised in ripping enemies apart in intense aerial dogfights. The most famous of these men, such as the Red Baron, utilised these amazing new killing machines to rack up huge body counts, with rivals outmanoeuvred at high speed and then blown away in a hail of high-calibre rounds.

Fighters would continue to be developed right through the interwar period, leading to world-famous aircraft such as the Supermarine Spitfire and Messerschmitt Bf 109 to elevate the art of human-on-human aerial combat to an even higher level. Indeed, the new need by humans to kill in the air produced over 20,000 Spitfires during its service lifetime, with the aircraft prized for its prowess and killing ability. The latter was aided by its powerful armament of twin 20mm Hispano Mk II cannons and four-gang of .303 Browning Mk II machine guns.



1. COCKPIT
The fully enclosed and streamlined cockpit grants its pilot good viewing angles when in control of the fighter, a crucial factor in aerial dogfights.

2. FUSELAGE
The Spitfire's airframe is incredibly advanced for its time, with a semi-monocoque duralumin fuselage made up from 19 smaller skeletal sections that begin immediately behind the propeller

3. WINGS
The Spitfire is installed with revolutionary elliptical wings, which not only have the thinnest possible cross-section of any contemporary, but also excellent speed and handling characteristics.

4. POWERPLANT
A beastly Rolls-Royce Merlin 45 supercharged V12 engine capable of a whopping 1,470hp grant the Mk VB an excellent top speed of 595km/h (370mph) and a rapid rate of climb of 13.2m/s (43.3ft/s).

5. WEAPONS
The Spitfire's primary weapon are twin Hispano Mk II cannons capable of throwing out 60 high-calibre rounds per minute. Four Browning Mk II machine guns are also included.

DEATH FROM ABOVE
KILL EFFICIENCY ●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●●

> "Piloted by men with nerves of steel, these new fighters specialised in ripping enemies apart"

ROCKET 1933

If war had become increasingly detached thanks to the invention of the tank and aeroplane, then with the invention of rockets, it entered a truly modern age. The Germans began developing rocket technology in the 1930s and the first of their so-called 'A' rockets flew in 1933. These rockets developed into the 'V' series and saw real success with the V-2 (Vengeance Weapon 2) rocket, the world's first long-range ballistic missile. The V-2 could deliver an explosive warhead capable of levelling entire buildings, killing masses of people and disrupting enemy installations. In the last year of World War II over 9,000 soldiers and civilians were killed by deadly V-2 blasts.

COLLATERAL VENGEANCE
KILL EFFICIENCY ●●
COLLATERAL DAMAGE ●●●●●
SHOCK FACTOR ●●●
ENGINEERING GENIUS ●●●

GUIDED MISSILE FAST FACTS

	RANGE OF FIRE
V-2 (1944)	320KM (200MI)
SSM-N-8 REGULUS (1955)	926KM (575MI)
TOMAHAWK (1983)	2,500KM (1,550MI)

FIGHTER JET 1942

Today, Earth's most advanced machine of war is the F-35 Lightning II, a multi-role jet fighter that costs over £185 million ($300 million) to buy and operate. The machine is the combined result of over 70 years of advancement in the jet-fighter field. From the day the Messerschmitt Me 262A took to the skies in 1942, the jet-fighter class of aircraft has become the world's most high-tech killer, allowing its pilot to obliterate enemies with a range of advanced smart munitions.

The F-35, fitted with its array of six external wing pylons and brace of four internal pylons, grants the aircraft a combined weapons payload of 8,100 kilograms (18,000 pounds. This allows it to carry a range of air-to-air missiles such the AIM-120 AMRAAM and AIM-9X Sidewinder, air-to-surface missiles such as the AGM-158 JASSM as well as anti-ship missiles. A wide variety of conventional bombs can be carried and released, such as the Paveway series of laser-guided bombs and Mk.20 Rockeye II cluster bomb. Just in case that arsenal isn't quite enough, the F-35 can also be strapped with the world-ending B61 mod 12 nuclear bomb, which can deliver a variable yield of up to 340 kilotons. This is currently the most complex machine of war on the planet, but it surely won't be long until it is superseded by new inventions such as drones, which don't even need to be piloted, but are controlled from thousands of miles away.

The Gloster Meteor was the first British fighter jet

Fighter jets are a prime example of the rapid development of war machines

THREE MEN OF WAR

Richard Jordan Gatling
1818-1903
Gatling gun
American inventor Richard Gatling became famous during his lifetime for his invention of the Gatling gun, a machine of war that he said would "enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred [and] supersede the necessity of large armies." The Gatling gun certainly didn't reduce the size of armies, or cease warfare, but it did lead the world into the machine-gun age, with a series of his and rivals' automatic cannons swiftly following suit.

Mikhail Kalashnikov
1919-2013
AK-47 assault rifle
The designer of the most widely used assault rifle of all time, Kalashnikov was one of Russia's most decorated men, receiving the Stalin Prize, Lenin Prize, USSR State Prize and Hero of Socialist Labour Prize for his invention of the AK-47. Despite Kalashnikov's belief that his rifle was designed as "a weapon of defence, not a weapon of offense", the AK-47 has been used in most warfare over the past 60 years, with over 70 million rifles in circulation.

Reginald Mitchell
1895-1937
Supermarine Spitfire
A celebrated aeronautical engineer, Mitchell was responsible for designing the Type 300, an all-metal monoplane that would be transformed into the iconic Spitfire. Mitchell's machine of war proved to be incredibly adept at killing and over 22,000 Spitfires were built. Speaking of the name the RAF chose for his fighter, Mitchell reportedly stated that, "Spitfire was just the sort of bloody silly name they would choose."

Casanova

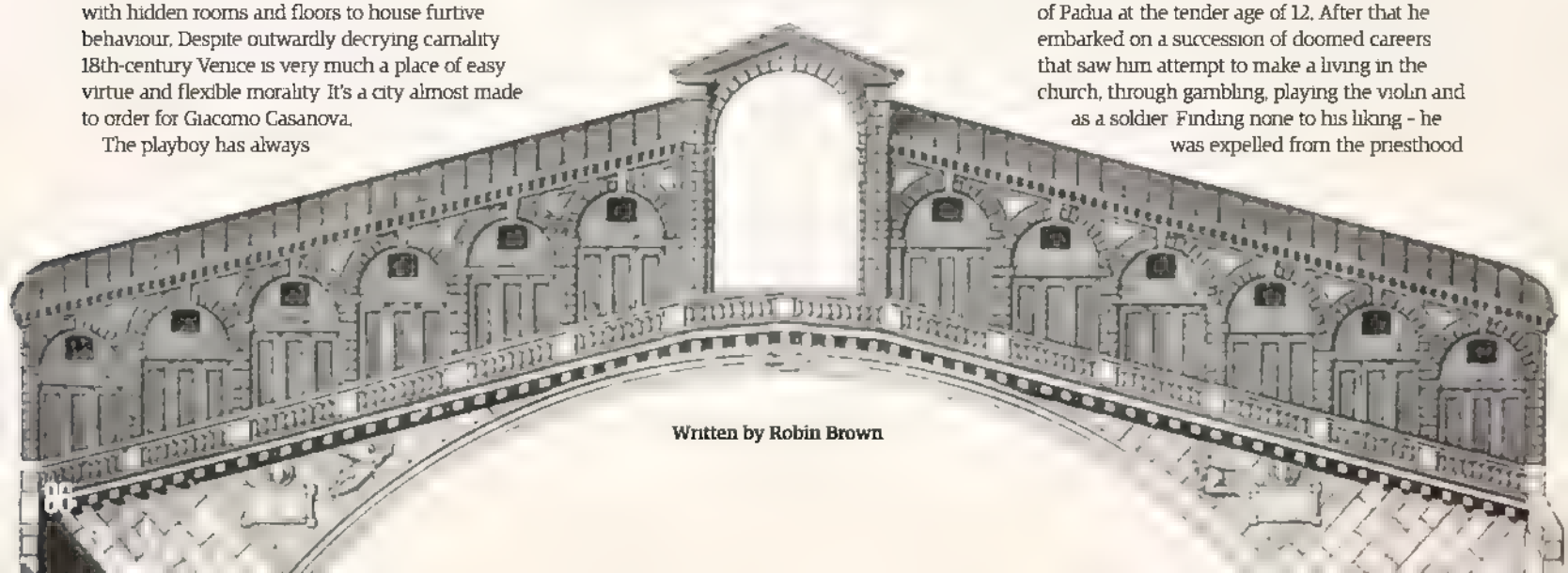
The Ultimate Playboy

Join history's most famous lover in decadent Venice as he beds nuns, foreign spies and countless wives of other men

Venice, 1753. Masked strangers walk the streets, topless prostitutes ply their trade on the Ponte delle Tette and gondolas line canals, staffed by gondoliers sporting the colours of the houses they serve. Parties fill the lavish homes of the city's aristocracy, decorated with marble floors and crystal chandeliers, with hidden rooms and floors to house furtive behaviour. Despite outwardly decrying carnality, 18th-century Venice is very much a place of easy virtue and flexible morality. It's a city almost made to order for Giacomo Casanova.

The playboy has always been entranced by beautiful women, the latest of whom is a noblewoman with an important husband. Such problems can be easily overcome though and the annual carnival allows for myriad opportunities. In this instance the husband in question is dressed as a clown – thinking quickly, Casanova marches over to the couple and declares that the duke has ordered all clowns to the San Giorgio Maggiore, a small island opposite St Mark's Square. Not wishing to disobey the city's duke, he quickly complies and scurries off. Without her husband, the lady readily accedes to Casanova's offer of a romantic meal. She would later become one of the 133 women history's most-famous lover claimed to have slept with.

Giacomo Casanova was born in 1725 and was quickly recognised as an intelligent child, so much so that he was sent to study law at the University of Padua at the tender age of 12. After that he embarked on a succession of doomed careers that saw him attempt to make a living in the church, through gambling, playing the violin and as a soldier. Finding none to his liking – he was expelled from the priesthood



Written by Robin Brown

Bric-Brac

Giacumo Girolamo Casanova 1725-1798, Italian

The man famous for his skills as a lover worked as a spy, a Catholic cardinal and a chemist, a violinist, a gambler and a con man. One of his greatest pleasures was writing and his magnum opus, *Story Of My Life*, was the result of decades of a range of work, from libretos written with Mozart to photographic tracts authored with Voltaire. A manuscript of his memoirs sold in 2010 for almost £[illegible] m.

Casanova: The Ultimate Playboy

Casanova has been depicted in many works of art, like in this print by Auguste Leroux

following his dalliances with the opposite sex and conducting his second sermon while drunk – or within his talents, he began dabbling in alchemy and magic, then slightly more legitimate pursuits.

At 17, Casanova lost his virginity to two sisters. Finding himself alone with the girls, daughters of a noble family, he shared a meal and wine with the siblings before the night degenerated into what he described as "ever-varied skirmishes." It was typical of Casanova's buccaneering sexual career that he should conspire to begin it with group sex, but the two – Nanetta and Marta Savorgnan – were just the first of many outlandish rendezvous.

A tall young man with striking features – described as of Moorish complexion, with dark, curly hair and a large nose – Casanova was a sturdy physical specimen in his day, 'built like Hercules' according to a friend. Casanova thought himself as having the "power to please at first sight, which I possessed in such measure." It was a power he put to good use

As a young man Casanova developed what was to become a life-long vice: gambling. 18th-century Venice was rife with gambling dens and a deck of cards had as much power over the ladykiller as an unattainable beauty. It would be the cause of him losing several fortunes throughout his life, but Casanova described himself as heartbroken when he did not have money to gamble. This was frequently the case during his early days in Venice until a chance encounter altered his fortunes. While playing the violin for money, Casanova saved the life of a Venetian nobleman, Don Matteo Bragadin, who was experiencing a fit. The grateful nobleman subsequently became his patron, paying his new charge handsomely to do little and indulge his various fancies. Clad in the finest clothes money could buy, with little else to do to fill his days, this inevitably meant chasing women, gambling and

Pregnancies

Despite apparently fathering up to eight children Casanova was an exponent of contraception using early versions of condoms made with sheep guts and even advocating lemons as an effective protection against unwanted pregnancies. Casanova also concocted a potion consisting of saffron and myrrh intended to abort a pregnancy. It didn't work.

Famous Casanova conquests

Profession: Aristocrat
Name: Henriette

How did he woo her? On the run from her unpleasant husband, Henriette was disguised as a soldier when Casanova first met her in 1749. Casanova was instantly smitten by her intelligence and beauty. Although she was sleeping with another man when they met, they quickly became lovers.

Was it true love? Undoubtedly – on his part at least. Casanova described himself as "enslaved" by his love for Henriette, claiming that their three months together were the happiest of his life. "They who believe that a woman is incapable of making a man equally happy all the 24 hours of the day have never known an Henriette", he wrote of her

What happened: Casanova conveyed Henriette to Parma, hired her a maid and an Italian language teacher and lavished his relatively meagre funds on her. Upon making contact with her father, Henriette returned to her family making him promise to not acknowledge her should they meet again. Casanova remembered it in his autobiography as one of the saddest moments in his life.

Did you know? After she had left, Casanova found the words "You will also forget Henriette" scratched on the window of their room with the diamond ring he had given her. It was still there decades later

Profession: One of the richest women in France
Name: The Marquise d'Urfé

How did he woo her? Casanova became an advisor to the Marquise, who indulged his advice through pity, desperation, ignorance or a mixture of the three. In reality the Venetian playboy dreamed up a succession of unlikely schemes that allowed him to defraud her and live off her considerable riches.

Was it true love? More likely a metaphorical marriage of convenience for both. Casanova's reputation as an alchemist made him sought after by rich cranks all over Europe. His promises of restoring youth and vitality appealed to the Marquise; her wealth and status appealed to him.

What happened: The Marquise eventually tired of Casanova's failed schemes and dispensed with his services, his cover blown. Casanova fled France in disgrace

Did you know? The final straw in the relationship came with Casanova's failed attempt to aid the Marquise in giving birth to herself. Despite being on the receiving end of three bouts of lovemaking from the Venetian fraud, the Marquise remained un-reincarnated

Profession: Nun
Name: MM

How did he woo her? Extraordinarily, he did not. Casanova was handed a note, while attending the Venetian convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli, instructing him to name the time and place for their assignation, to which she would readily submit. The wooer was wooed.

Was it true love? True lust, perhaps. The object of Casanova's attentions had renounced her vow of chastity while he was beside himself at the prospect of tasting "forbidden fruit" as he put it. The two confirmed the union without having previously met one another, so mutually attracted were they

What happened: Unable to resist the appeal of the taboo, Casanova pursued a sexual relationship with MM over the course of two torrid years, enlightening the smitten nun in the ways of physical love

Did you know? MM was already the lover of the French ambassador to Venice, who had arranged the affair. Casanova enjoyed group sex with the nun, her lover and Casanova's former partner 14-year-old Caterina Capretta, who had ironically been sent to the convent for safe keeping by her father

Profession: Daughter of Italian actors
Name: Marion Balletti

How did he woo her? Casanova first met Manon Balletti when she was ten years old commencing a relationship seven years later which lasted for three years

Was it true love? Certainly for her part – she described him as "My lover, my husband, my friend." When Casanova was stuck in a Parisian debtor's prison, Manon sent a pair of diamond earrings to buy him out, several years after their relationship had ended. She believed he would end his days with her when he eventually settled down.

What happened: At the age of 20, Manon married a more reputable man, to Casanova's dismay. When she died at the age of 36, Casanova blamed himself for causing her heartache through his unfaithfulness

Did you know? Maurice's famous portrait, painted by Jean Mar... Nattier, currently hangs in Room 33 of the National Portrait Gallery in London

"Desires are but pain and torment, and enjoyment is sweet because it delivers us from them"

engaging in behaviour regarded as profoundly anti-social in the modern day.

One of Casanova's most famous seduction tales at this time was with a nun, named by Casanova as MM. She would be whisked away from her convent to a private apartment paid for by her older lover, the French ambassador. Casanova enjoyed a long-running, passionate affair with the fallen nun and also entered into some eyebrow-raising encounters with her lover and a young woman, also a nun trusted to Casanova's care, who he essentially pimped out. Such trysts were not uncommon in Venice, where promiscuity, group sex and homosexuality were outwardly disdained but commonly pursued.

Another famous affair was with Donna Lucrezia Castelli, whom he met along with her sister and husband, on a carriage ride to Rome. Befriending the family, Casanova began an affair with Lucrezia under the nose of her husband during the trip to Rome and continued it during the entire journey. When forced to part ways, the blow was softened by a threesome with Lucrezia and her sister Angelique. As scandalous as this is, the story does not end there and 17 years later Casanova found himself in Naples, working for the Duke de Matalone. The Duke was impotent but kept both a wife and a mistress to maintain appearances.. Upon meeting the latter, Leonilda, Casanova was instantly smitten and began to woo her, travelling to seek permission from her mother to marry the young girl. Casanova was dismayed to find out that Leonilda's mother was, of course, Lucrezia and realised that he had come close to sleeping with and marrying what might be his own daughter. "I took a chair and guessed it all. My hair stood on end, and I relapsed into a gloomy silence." Casanova sought solace in the arms of Lucrezia and was further consoled when he spent a night of passion with both of them, the details of which even he was too coy to spell out: "If I told all I should wound chaste ears."

While Casanova was certainly incorrigible, he was not always the cad he is commonly thought to be. The Venetian libertine cared for the women in his life and would generally try to ensure that his women would be looked after, safe and not damaged by his association with them. He considered women his equals and was not attracted to women who were not independent, intelligent and outgoing. He was not averse to deceit, however, when it came to beautiful women, going so far as to convince a woman that sleeping with him would abort the woman's unwanted foetus. "Cheating is a sin, but honest cunning is simply prudence. It is a virtue. To be sure, it has a likeness to roguery, but that cannot be helped. He who has not learned to practise it is a fool."

Rivals

Casanova was no stranger to rivals, or to violence. Although frequently choosing discretion over valour, he'd engage in fisticuffs and even duelling. A pistol duel over an Italian actress resulted in Casanova and his rival being wounded. Doctors counselled amputation but Casanova used his medical knew-how to aid a recovery.

The many faces of the playboy

Casanova managed to find the time to develop several unlikely professions in between trysts...

Silence in the library

Casanova spent his last years as a librarian at the Count von Waldstein's château at Dux in Bohemia, now Duchcov in the Czech Republic. Depressed by his humdrum existence, unable to converse in German and suffering from ill health, he spent much of his time writing his infamous autobiography after being advised by a doctor to jot down his memories to cheer himself up.

The spying game

From 1774 to 1782 Casanova served as a spy for the Venetian inquisitors, passing on titbits of gossip on business, religion and moral issues. Earlier, he was employed by Louis XV in France, reporting back from Dunkirk, where the English fleet was docked during the Seven Year War between England and France. Later, Casanova would attempt to sell the secret of a cotton-red dye to Italy.

On the cards

Among various petty frauds, hustling and card sharping, Casanova invented the lottery in 1757. Conceived as a way for Louis XV to raise funds for a military academy, the French king was so taken with the idea that he appointed Casanova to supervise the operation. The infamous lothario became a millionaire almost overnight, though he squandered his fortune on dubious investments, romancing women and wooing high society.

Casanova: The Ultimate Playboy

Casanova has become synonymous with the city he lived much of his life in; Venice

Sexually transmitted diseases

With no effective protection against STDs other than abstinence and little in the way of treatment Casanova suffered a variety of unpleasant venereal diseases. According to some sources he suffered from up to 11 including the pox, gonorrhoea and syphilis. He would treat them himself by administering mercury

An illustration of Scuola Grande di San Marco in Venice, as it looked in the 18th century

A depiction of Casanova's improbable escape from the doge's palace, where he had been imprisoned for 'anti-Catholic behaviour'

History's ultimate playboy believed that in wooing a woman, no amount of compliments was excessive, finding the opposite sex responded favourably to his words. Seduction was an art, a passion in itself for Casanova who admitted he found the thrill of affairs, not simply the physical acts, so addictive. When words failed, he was wont to seduce women with oysters, finding that women enjoyed eating them in the same volumes as him and that they also enjoyed 'the oyster game', passing the shellfish from mouth to mouth.

Through a variety of conquests, openly promiscuous behaviour and mischief – such as exhuming a fresh corpse to play a practical joke on an enemy, who never recovered from the fright – Casanova began to attract unwanted attention, such as from the Venetian Inquisition, who investigated 'anti-Catholic behaviour'. In 1749 he was forced to flee the city, spending the next four years touring Europe. On his travels he bedded women but also met some of the most notable citizens of the day – Casanova would claim to have hobnobbed with Mozart, Voltaire and Benjamin Franklin – before returning to his birthplace.

> "Whatever I have done in the course of my life, whether it be good or evil, has been done freely"

Despite its waning influence as a port and mercantile city, the city-state of Venice was still hugely influential in Europe as the centre of the powerful Venetian Republic. Ruled by oligarchies descended from the leading families of the city's glory days, the grandest palaces and finest artworks in all of Europe were to be found in Venice. Dukes headed a council that effectively ruled the city and, while many inhabitants were Roman Catholics, the Venetians had little interest in the conservative zeal of the Catholic Church.

Yet even the relatively decadent Venice had its limits. Casanova's notoriety was growing, with Venice's inquisitors increasingly outraged by his licentious behaviour. Casanova's patron Don Bragadin, being a former inquisitor himself, advised his charge to leave Venice immediately and not return. A state spy, Giovanni Manucci, was engaged to discover more about Casanova's freemasonry and collection of forbidden books.

The inevitable happened in 1755 when

Take a tour of Casanova's Venice

Ponte delle Tette
Where he would procure prostitutes
its name means 'Bridge of Female Breasts' in English, so it's no surprise that Casanova was a frequent visitor. Located in the district of San Cassiano, the bridge would be frequented by topless prostitutes, who were encouraged by Venetian authorities in an attempt to convert homosexuals
Upon escaping,
and set about him with a stick, leaving him with a broken nose and three missing teeth
Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal
Where he gambled and romanced ladies
One of the buildings
especially during the carnival
The doge's palace
Where he pulled off a daring prison break
Gothic palace built in the
1797 and is one of Venice's most famous landmarks

PRISON

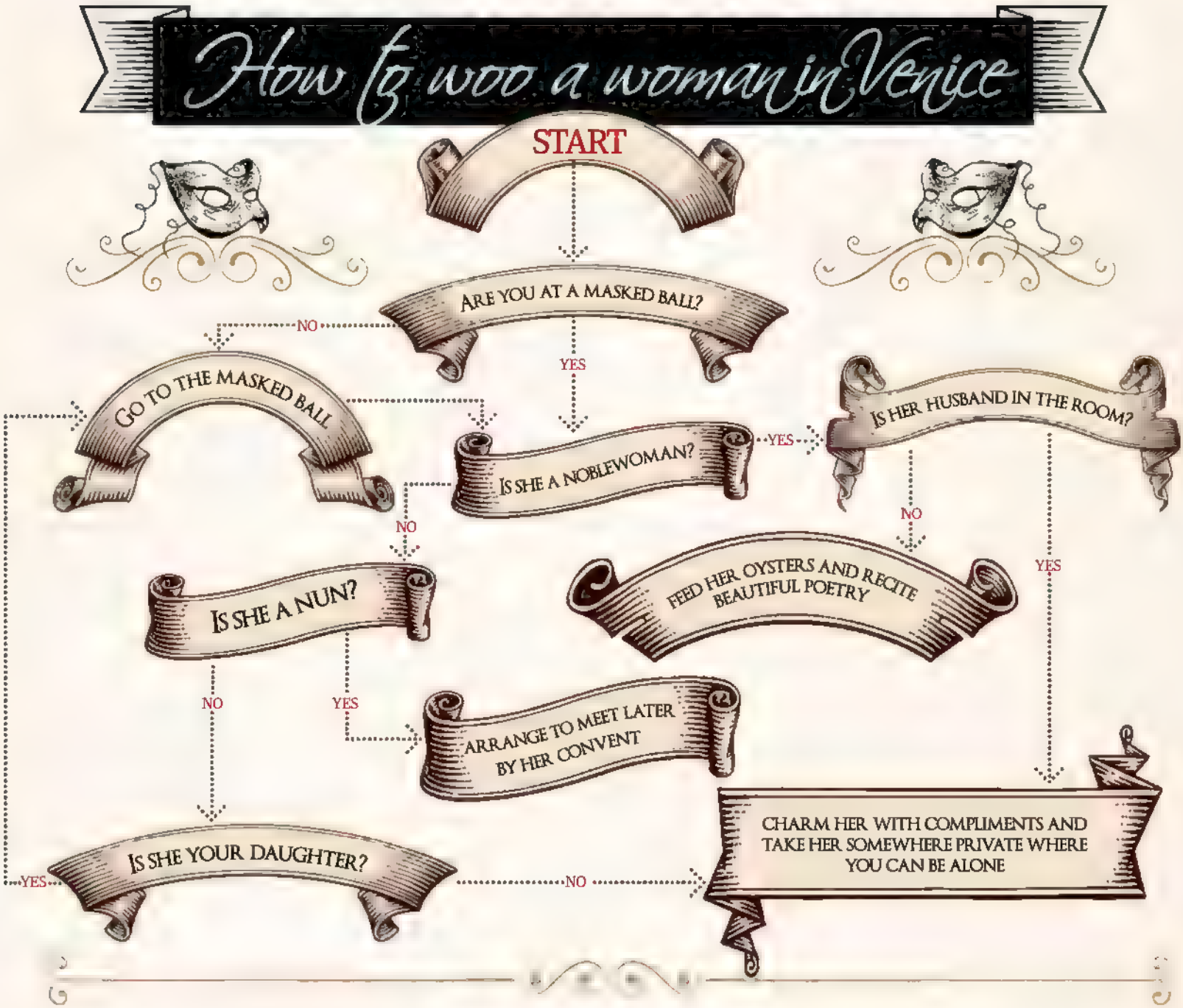
While he was known for his visits to the boudoirs of Venice's ladies, Casanova was no stranger to prison beds either. He was imprisoned several times throughout his life often on charges trumped up by jealous rivals. Spells locked up include 14 months in the doge's palace, thought to be inescapable before he sauntered out the front door

Casanova was arrested by the Venetian secret police on trumped-up charges that included blasphemy, but were spurred on by an elderly Venetian magistrate, who was apparently convinced that Casanova was romancing his mistress. Imprisoned in the doge's palace, reserved for prisoners of higher status and political crimes and named for the lead plates covering the palace roof, Casanova was sentenced to five years imprisonment in the notorious jail for "public outrages against the holy religion."

The hypocrisy in this act is hard to overstate. Venice's ruling elite lived by a peculiar set of morals. Promiscuity was rife and the Venetians had a liking for group sex and orgies. While homosexuality was outwardly persecuted it was common behind closed doors and not considered particularly unusual. On the streets of Venice, topless prostitutes would frequent the red-light districts; tolerated by the ruling council as they believed the availability of naked women would prevent homosexuality. Sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies were common and quack doctors and alchemists were employed in vain efforts to combat them. Women who fell pregnant out of wedlock could be sent to convents, while those suffering from pox would be treated with bleeding or poisonous mercury.

Casanova knew something of physics and was able to treat himself and others throughout his life, as well as using ignorance over medicine and chemistry to his advantage in deceiving rich clients. The famous seducer bore his imprisonment heavily, describing his torment as something he would not wish on his worst enemies. His tiny cell did not permit him to stand upright, was initially furnished only with a tiny bench and bucket, was constantly besieged by huge rats and let in very little light. The chiming of St Mark's clock in the roof of the palace and constant attacks by swarms of fleas did little to alleviate his mood.

Without company, good food, books or clothing to speak of, Casanova was consumed with thoughts of revenge and escape. During the only exercise he was allowed – a walk around the attic corridors of the palace – Casanova stumbled upon an iron bar and shard of marble; hiding them in his armchair, he set about carving a hole through the wooden floorboards into the room below, intent on a daring escape. Following weeks of slow work, Casanova was ready to make his escape when the unthinkable happened; he was moved to another cell. Ironically this was a kindness engineered by a friend to provide the luckless prisoner with more comfortable accommodation. The cruelty of this



coincidence stunned him into inaction.

Recovering his wits, Casanova engaged the assistance of a nearby prisoner, sending him the metal spike in a copy of the *Bible* under a plate of particularly buttery pasta, designed to distract the guard. In a daring move the adjacent prisoner, Father Balbi, managed to make a hole in his ceiling and another above Casanova's new cell. Leaving behind a note – "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" – the two escapees bent aside the lead plates on the roof.

Realising that the drop to Venice's famous Grand Canal was too great, the duo managed to break a window into another room, descending eight metres (25 feet) with the help of a knotted bedsheet. Resting until morning, the pair made their way through the palace, brazening it out

> "Love is a great poet, its resources are inexhaustible, but if the end it has in view is not obtained, it feels weary and remains silent'"

and pretending to be dignitaries that had been locked in overnight after a particularly raucous function. Casanova could scarcely believe his luck as the guards dutifully allowed the pair to stroll to freedom through the front gate.

Making good their escape on a gondola, the two navigated Venice's canals and left the city – the only two to ever escape the doge's palace. Casanova would later describe his prison break as a miracle. Realising he had to leave his home city, Casanova fled Venice for Paris, there to continue his itinerant existence, losing and gaining fortunes, causing mischief and wooing women.

He would return to the Italian city again in later life and, although he lived out his final days in Bohemia – now the Czech Republic – the waterways, palaces, masked balls and gondolas of Venice are to this day inseparable from the legend of Giacomo Girolamo Casanova: history's most famous lover in the city of love.

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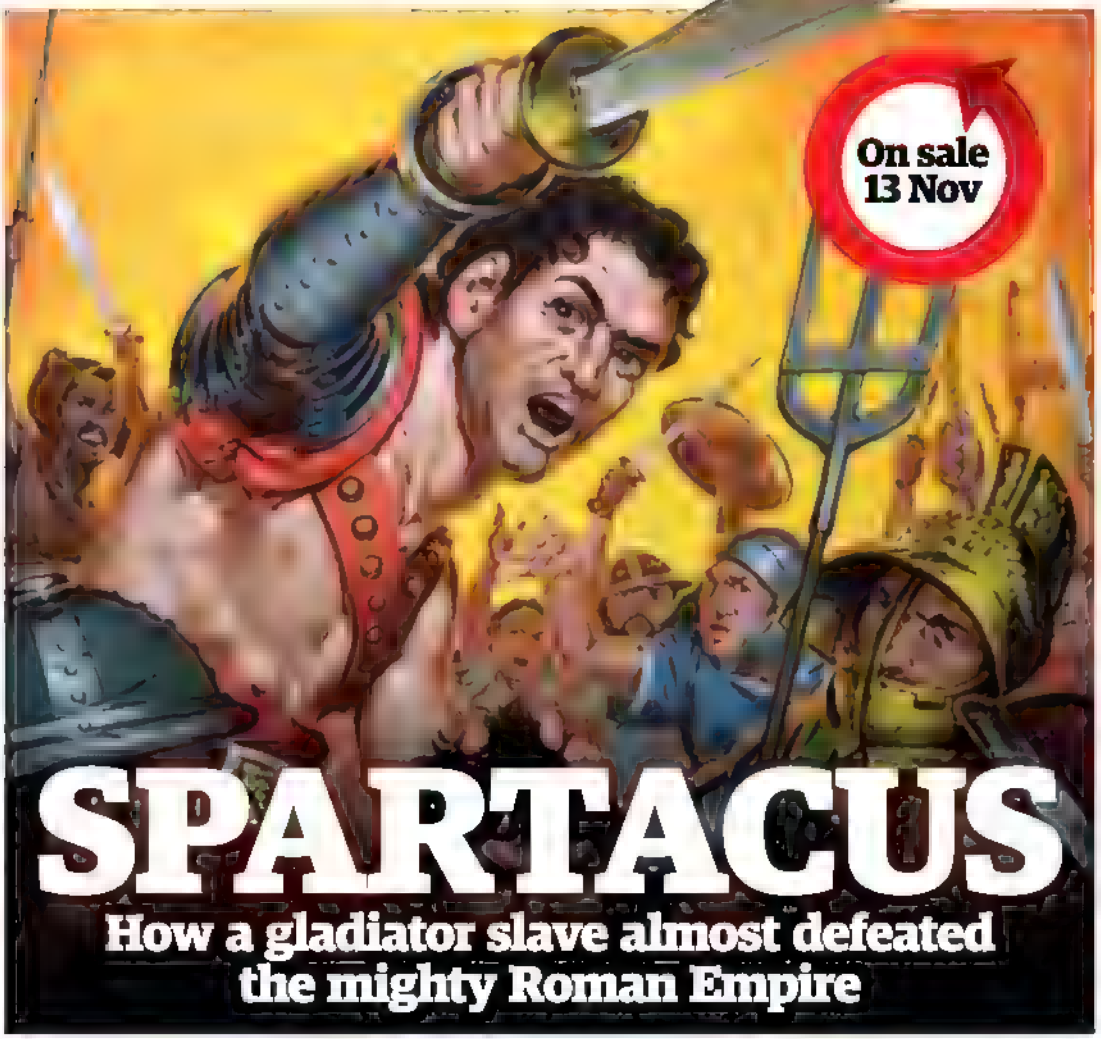

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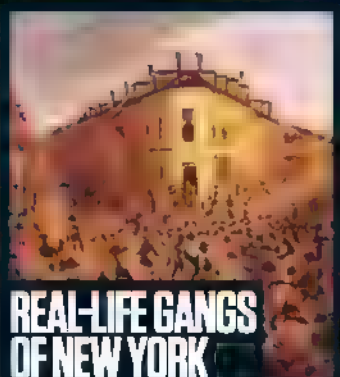
How a gladiator slave almost defeated the mighty Roman Empire



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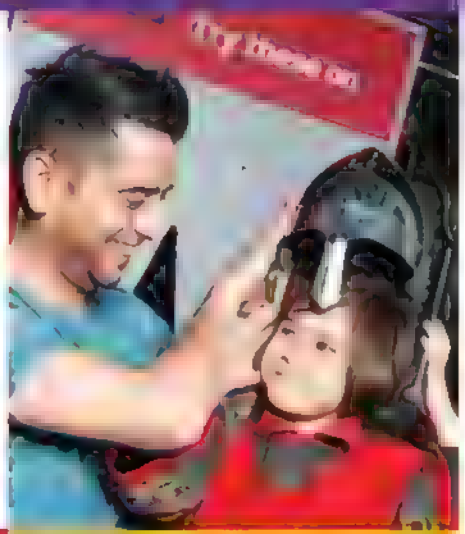

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Who was the Wild West's deadliest gunslinger?

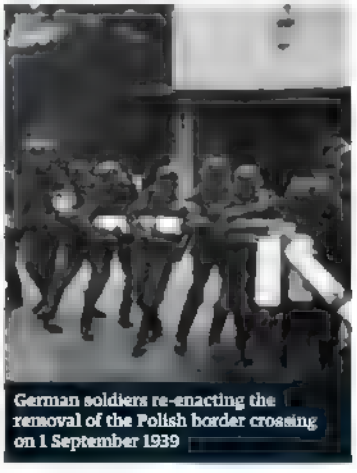
Marie Merchant, London

It is difficult to judge 'deadliest' by the number of people killed, as the numbers of gunslingers such as Billy the Kid and Wyatt Earp have been skewed by legend. However, one of the most terrifying figures of the Wild West was Tom Horn. After his skills as a tracker and scout of the US Cavalry were recognised, Horn was promoted to be a detective of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. He was known for being calm under pressure but as having a volatile temper. When he was linked to the killings of 17 people, his career as a detective was terminated to avoid negative press. Horn is then believed to have begun working as a killer for hire, claiming that, "killing men is my speciality. I look at it is a business proposition, and I think I have a corner on the market." This 'business' quickly took up speed and Horn is thought to have killed at least 20 cattle rustlers over several years, and some historians even put this figure at 50. Horn eventually met his end when he was hanged for the murder of a 14-year-old boy, a crime he is believed to have been innocent of.

What country has been invaded the most?

Vicks Jenkins, Cardiff

It is almost impossible to answer this question with a single definite answer, but there are several strong contenders for this dubious honour. Poland's location between eastern and western Europe has caused it to be invaded many times, and it was not uncommon for one set of invaders to be immediately replaced by another. Hitler led an infamous invasion of Poland in 1939 which kick-started World War II, but throughout its history it has been invaded by the Mongol Army, the Teutonic Knights and Russia, among many others. Another notable contender is the Palestine region, especially Jerusalem, which has changed hands countless times. Jerusalem, which is ironically known as the 'city of peace', has been a centre of conflict for millennia. From all the way back in 1350 BCE the city has been the subject of over a 100 conflicts and the struggle for control continues even to this day.


German soldiers re-enacting the removal of the Polish border crossing on 1 September 1939

This day in history 16 October

690 – Wu Zetian becomes ruler
The Chinese empress Wu Zetian becomes ruler of the Chinese Empire after ascending to the throne. She names her dynasty the Zhou Dynasty and becomes the first female Chinese emperor in over 4,000 years.

1793 – Marie Antoinette executed
Eight months after her husband's execution, Marie Antoinette meets her death by guillotine. The French queen was found guilty of treason by a revolutionary tribunal at the height of the French Revolution.

1813 – The Battle of Leipzig
The Sixth Coalition of Russia, Prussia, Austria and Sweden attack Napoleon Bonaparte's forces in Saxony. The Coalition goes on to win and Napoleon experiences his first decisive defeat in battle.

1846 – Anaesthesia is demonstrated
Boston dentist William Thomas Green Morton gives the first public demonstration of anaesthesia. The painless surgery involved a surgeon removing a tumour from the neck of a patient, impressing medical practitioners the world over.

What was the longest war in history?

Holly Reed, Glasgow

There have been several instances of continuous conflicts between countries that have lasted several hundreds of years, but as far as singular wars go the Hundred Years' War is the longest. Beginning in 1337 and ending in 1453, this conflict between England and France lasted 116 years with 81 years of fighting. A peculiar anomaly worth mentioning is the Three Hundred and Thirty Five Years' War between the Isles of Scilly and the Netherlands, which, because of the lack of a peace treaty, officially lasted from 1651 to 1986 without one casualty or a single shot being fired.

The Hundred Years' War finally ended with a French victory

HOW MANY YEARS DID BRITAIN RULE INDIA?
89 years

What was the first Best Picture winner at the Oscars?

Shane Black, Bristol

The very first Academy Awards ceremony took place on 16 May 1929. Rather than the very public event it is today, the ceremony was hosted at a private dinner in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles and was not broadcast on radio or television. Tickets to attend the event were available at five dollars each and it attracted 270 people, but the actual presentation ceremony lasted a mere 15 minutes. There wasn't a great amount of tension as the winners were announced three months before the ceremony took place. The Best Picture award went to *Wings*, a silent WWI movie – it was also the most expensive film of its time.

Gary Cooper's role in *Wings* launched his Hollywood career

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Why are US dollars green?

Emma Murray, Chicago

Currency all around the world is available in a host of colourful shades, from blue to red to pink, but the US dollar bills are all green in colour and have even earned the nickname 'greenbacks.' There are multiple reasons for this; first, green was seen as a colour symbolising strength and stability. Second, the green pigment was readily available en masse. Third, and perhaps most importantly, green was identified as the colour most difficult to photocopy, reducing the risk of counterfeit notes being produced.

The first one-dollar bill was printed in 1862

Why do monks have shaved heads? Find out at... historyanswers.co.uk

1923 – The birth of Disney
Walt Disney and his brother Roy form the Walt Disney Company under the name Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio. They produce a series of silent animated films entitled *Alice Comedies*.

1946 – Nuremberg execution
The convicted Nazi leaders of the main trial of the Nuremberg trial are executed by hanging. The legal proceeding, known as "the greatest trial in history", saw prominent Nazi leaders charged with war crimes.

1962 – Cuban missile crisis
In the early hours of the morning US President John F Kennedy is shown photos of missiles in Cuba. This begins the Cuban missile crisis between the United States, Cuba and the Soviet Union.

1973 – Kissinger wins the Nobel Prize
Famous and polarising US diplomat Henry Kissinger is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in US withdrawal from Vietnam. Vietnamese politician Le Duc Tho is also awarded the prize but declines the award.

HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

CASANOVA

Director: Lasse Hallström **Starring:** Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller, Jeremy Irons **Country of origin:** USA **Year made:** 2005

Will this retelling of the legendary lover's life woo the critics?

What they got right

Casanova's fondness for crossdressers is accurate; his real love Henriette, an aristocrat's daughter, disguised herself as a man to flee an abusive husband. He also fell for a castrato singer who turned out to be a woman wearing a prosthetic member, which he deemed an "extraordinary attachment."

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 An elderly Casanova says in a voiceover: "10,000 pages [...] about one woman for every page." But Casanova's real memoirs were a mere 3,800 pages long and featured liaisons with 136 women, hardly the 10,000 his film equivalent claims to have bedded.

02 Although the real Casanova did write about his encounters with a nun, the chase that ensues with the Inquisition in the film is not accurate. The real Inquisition disapproved of Casanova more for his beliefs about astrology and Kabbalah than his sex life.

03 As Casanova races through Venice he hides in a university auditorium where he spies his one true love, Francesca Bruni. This building is the Teatro Olimpico, which is not in Venice at all, but in Vicenza, 74km (45mi) away from the city.

04 The film paints Casanova as smitten by feminist writer Francesca Bruni, likely inspired by a single line in his memoirs. This line was most likely added by his editor Jean Laforgue who modernised his original text and added lines favourable to the French Revolution.

05 When Casanova and Francesca take to the skies of Venice in a hot-air balloon, it would have been 30 years prior to the first real flight. The Montgolfier brothers, Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne, manned the first flight of a hot-air balloon in 1783.

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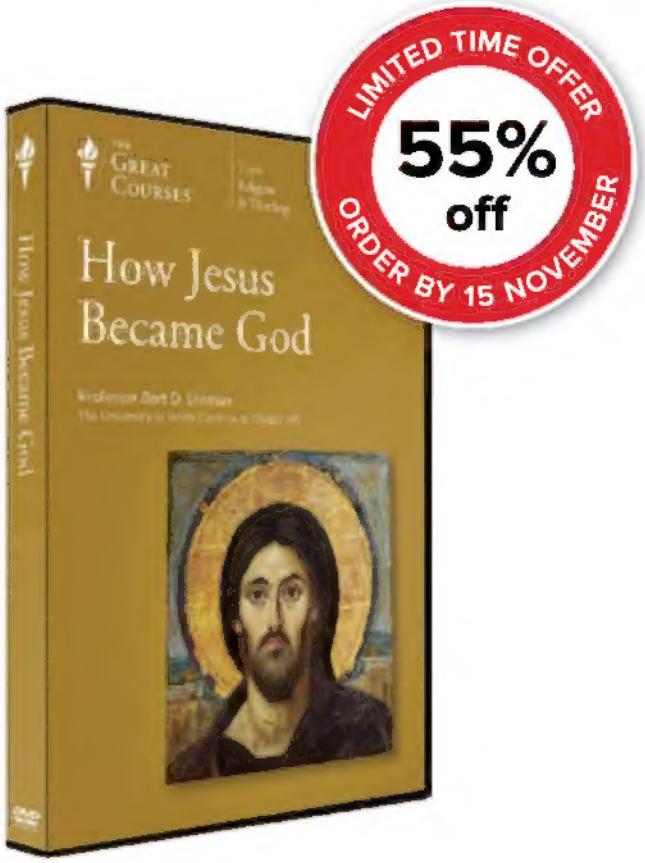

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Rye Bay Scallop Week

May

Hastings, Jack in the Green

Battle Medieval Fayre

June

Great War Weekend, Kent & East Sussex Railway

August

Herstmonceux Medieval Festival

Bodiam Castle Grand Medieval Weekend

September

Bexhill Festival of the Sea

Hastings Seafood & Wine Festival

October

Hastings Bonfire & Torchlight Procession

Battle, Re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings

Rye, Wild Boar Week, Festival of Game

November

Hastings Herring Fair

Sussex Bonfire & Torchlight Processions, Rye & Robertsbridge

Battle >> Bexhill >> Hastings >> Herstmonceux >> Pevensey >> Rye